

1100 years in the heart of Europe

The area of their country is barely 100,000 km². Their language is spoken nowhere else. Their folk songs bear no resemblance to those of other nations. Yet, the Hungarian people have been living in the centre of Europe for over 1,100 years.

Despite frequent tragic upheavals which spared nothing and nobody, the country boasts a heritage that attracts people from far and wide.

Citing the city's unparalleled panorama, UNESCO declared Budapest, Hungary's capital, 'the Pearl of the Danube', a World Heritage site.

After Iceland, Hungary has the world's largest reserve of surface thermal water: hundreds of springs help thousands in recovering.

Lake Balaton, Central Europe's largest lake, is a favourite get-away for families with young children, fans of yachting and lovers of the beach.

We have collected for you in this brochure a variety of things that can be seen and enjoyed in Hungary.

Have a delightful time travelling and exploring the country and many unforgettable experiences in the heart of Europe!

Hungarian National Tourist Office
www.hungary.com



Budapest, Gellért Thermal Baths



Balaton



Gödöllő, Royal Palace





Budapest



Budapest, Széchenyi Chain Bridge with the Castle of Buda in the background

Some fall in love with the city at first sight, others are won over only after a longer period of discovery; but all agree that it is one of the most beautiful locations in the world.

The metropolis with a population of two million is bisected by the mighty flow of the Danube with hills and valleys on the Buda side and the flat, low-lying Pest on the other. The riverside panorama has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Anybody who has ever seen it illuminated by night can understand why.

Here are some interesting facts about Budapest:

–Although initially inhabited fifty thousand years ago, it has only had its present name for a mere 128 years. Prior to 1873, Óbuda, Buda and Pest were separate towns.

–Under its hills there is a system of caves with thermal waters gushing from 80 thermal springs which supply 12 spas with 70 million litres of water daily.

–Its monuments include 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheatres, 400-year-old Turkish baths and unique Hungarian Art Nouveau buildings from the 19th century. The cityscape owes its uniform appearance to the elegant mansions erected in Eclectic style in the early 20th century.

–The transport system also has some interesting features. The first underground railway of Europe has been connecting the downtown with the City Park for over 100 years. In the Buda hills you will find the world's third hill railway and a narrow-gauge forest railway operated by children.

–Lovers of culture are spoilt for choice with 237 monuments, 223 museums and galleries, 35 theatres, 90 cinemas, 2 opera houses and 12 concert halls. Around 200 excursion destinations offer a wide variety of things to do. Throughout the 365 days of the year, travel agencies organise walks and sightseeing tours by coach and boat, tailored to individual requirements.



Buda

The most important sights of the city can be found here, on the right bank of the Danube. Buda is the capital city's green belt with popular hiking destinations like the János-hegy ('hegy' meaning 'hill'), Normafa, Széchenyi-hegy, Kis- and Nagy-Hárs-hegy, Remete-hegy, Hármashatár-hegy and the Game Park in *Budakeszi*, all of them parts of the Buda Nature Reserve. We suggest the following route: take the cog-wheel railway (one stop from Moszkva tér by tram 56) to Széchenyi-hegy, then the children's railway to Hűvösvölgy. The train stops at Budapest's highest point on János-hegy (526 m). From here, take the chair lift to Zugliget, then bus 158 back to Moszkva tér. The only two caves open to the public in Budapest are the Pálvölgyi stalactite cave, which can be explored to a length of 500 m (entrance to the cave at 162 Szépvölgyi út) and Szemlő Hill cave (entrance to the cave at 35 Pusztaszeri út), a saline cave 300 m of which is open to visitors (reached by bus from Kolosy tér in Óbuda).

Óbuda

Aquincum (D2), the ruins of a two thousand years old forerunner of Budapest, can be found in the northern part of the city. The remains of this civil and military town of the Roman period include two amphitheatres, villas with superb mosaic works, a military bath-house and the stone pillars of an aqueduct. The Aquincum Museum (139 Szentendrei út) is a contiguous area of ruins, where the most valuable items include carved stones, wall paintings and an ancient organ. Old single-storey houses, taverns and fine museums create a unique ambience at Fő tér in Óbuda. Nearby are two museums: the Varga Imre Museum (7 Laktanya utca), exhibiting the works of a contemporary sculptor, and the Vasarely Museum (6 Szentlélek tér) housing the complete oeuvre of Victor Vasarely (originally: Győző Vásárhelyi), father of op-art. At the Kiscelli Museum (108 Kiscelli út) there is a rich collection of works depicting Budapest in addition to 20th-century Hungarian works of fine arts.

The Castle District in Buda

Erected in the 14th century and rebuilt in the Baroque style 400 years later, the royal palace at Szent György tér was the residence of the Hungarian monarchs for 700 years. Today it houses Budapest's most frequented museums and galleries. The Hungarian National Gallery (Buildings B, C, and D) offers a selection of the history of arts in Hungary from the 10th century to the present day. Exhibits include a collection of early medieval and Renaissance stone works, Gothic wood-carvings, panels and triptychs, Renaissance and Baroque art, 19th- and 20th-century painting, sculpture and collections of coins and medals. Guided tours are available to the crypt of the Hapsburg viceroys. At the History of Budapest Museum (Building E) restored sections of the medieval royal palace in Buda, its chapel and Gothic sculptures as well as permanent and temporary exhibitions on Budapest's history can be seen. The National Széchenyi Library (Building F), the country's largest library, houses - among others - a rich collection of the Corvinas, medieval codices from King Matthias' library. In Building A the Museum of Contemporary Arts, also known as the Ludwig Museum, displays the works of outstanding Hungarian and foreign contemporary artists.

Topped by a tower of stone tracery, Matthias Church, also called the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, (2 Szentháromság tér) was the scene of coronations and royal weddings. In the early 19th century it was rebuilt in a neo-Gothic style. Its crypt now displays a collection of ecclesiastical artefacts. From spring to autumn concerts are organised here. The Fishermen's Bastion, a neo-Romanesque bulwark with seven towers built on medieval walls, offers an excellent view of the city. Further back the remains of the 13th-15th-century St. Nicholas Church with a Dominican monastery have been ingeniously incorporated into the interior of the stylish Hilton Hotel. The Dominican courtyard of the hotel hosts open-air performances. The urban middle-class houses in the streets connecting Bécsi kapu tér and Dísz tér, gates to the Castle District, were built on medieval foundations. The Gothic sedilia of their doorways lend a unique feature to them. The Castle Cave, a 1,800-m section of the 12-km cave system under Castle Hill (entrance at 16 Országház utca) is open to the public only by booking in advance. The Military History Museum (40 Tóth Árpád sétány) displays



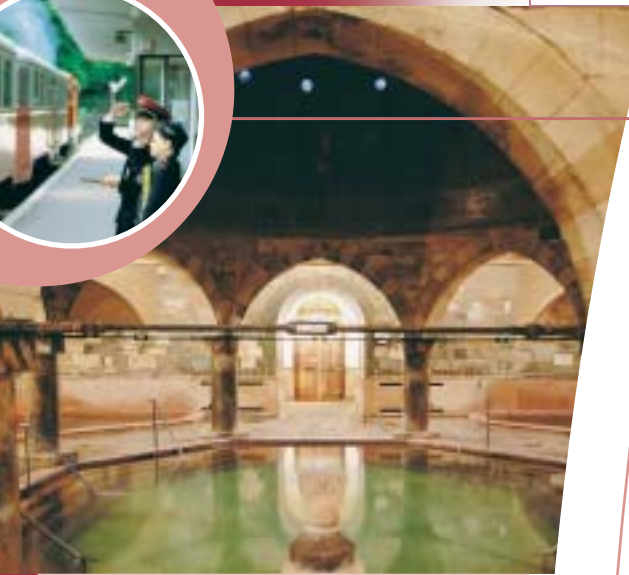
Concert in the Matthias Church



The Fishermen's Bastion

memories of Hungary's military past, and the medieval Jewish Chapel (26 Táncsics M. utca) offers an insight into the past life of the Jews in Buda. The Baroque Erdődy-Hatvany Mansion (7 Táncsics M. utca) keeps rare musical instruments from the Museum of Musical History as well as a rich collection of the manuscripts of the great Hungarian composer Béla Bartók (1881-1945).





Rudas Baths



Parliament



The State Opera House

Gellért Hill

Not many cities have a hill rising from the city centre and protected as a national park. Gellért Hill has a fortress called the Citadel on top of it, which was built in 1851, and is now a tourist attraction with terraces offering the fullest panoramic view of the city.

The hot springs deep inside the hill supply three spas at the foot of the hill. The Gellért Thermal Baths, Hungary's grandest spa (2-4 Kelenhegyi út), where facilities include thermal and swimming pools, bath tubs, whirlpool baths, wave pools and a water park. The other two, Rudas Baths at 9 Döbrentei tér and Rác Baths at 8-10 Hadnagy utca, date back to the era of Turkish rule in Hungary. Facilities at both include tubs and thermal pools and as well 'Turkish' or steam baths. A swimming pool can also be found at the Rudas Baths.

Other monuments from the Turkish period include the tomb of Gül Baba, a Muslim shrine on Rózsadomb ('Hill of Roses') at 4 Mecset utca, and the domed Király Thermal Baths at 82-84 Fő utca, with facilities including thermal pools, tubs and steam baths.

Fertile hillside vineyards have made Budafok in the south of Budapest a city of wine and sparkling wine. Its highlights include a labyrinth of cellars and the Museum of the Törley Sparkling Wine Manufacturers at 82-94 Kossuth L. utca. The Szoborpark ('Park of Sculptures') at the junction of Balatoni út-Szabadkai út displays an unparalleled collection of socialist-era public sculptures. The Castle Museum in Nagytétény (9-11 Kastélypark utca, 22nd District of Budapest) has an interesting collection of furniture. Offering a glimpse of sea life, the Tropicarium at the Campona shopping mall is worth including in a day's programme.

Pest

Pest, on the left bank of the Danube, also has many historic districts, resorts and famous sights. There are nine bridges spanning the Danube, the oldest being the Széchenyi Chain Bridge built in 1849.

Downtown - Pest

The Downtown Parish Church on Március 15. tér was the city's first church. Examples of all architectural styles, ranging from Romanesque to Classicist, blend into the interior of the church. At 2 Dohány utca Europe's largest synagogue is found, serving also as a concert hall of excellent acoustics. The Jewish Museum in the courtyard of the synagogue is a centre for Jewish studies. The Hungarian National Museum (14-16 Múzeum körút) is the finest example of Hungarian Classicist architecture. In existence since 1846, it is the most significant public collection in Hungary, tracing the history of the Hungarian people from prehistoric times to the present day. The Vásárcsarnok ('Grand Market Hall', 1-3 Fővám körút) is striking in its architectural inventiveness.

The finest examples of Art Nouveau architecture in Hungary include the Museum of Applied Arts (33-37 Üllői út) with its wide selection of permanent and temporary exhibitions, the houses on Szervita tér (Pest town centre) and the building of the former Postal Savings Bank (4 Hold utca). The Parliament (Kossuth Lajos tér) is the largest and the most lavishly decorated building in the country. Built between 1885 and 1902 by Imre Steindl, this exquisite edifice is 96-m high and 118-m wide, and has 10 courtyards, 29 staircases and 27 gates. Europe's first area heating system was put in service in this building. Seat of the Hungarian Parliament and government offices, it provides a place of safety for the Holy Crown and the royal insignia. It is accessible only by guided tours in groups. The neo-Renaissance St. Stephen's Basilica (Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út), elevated to the rank of basilica minor, is the largest church in Budapest, and the second largest in Hungary. The right hand of St. Stephen, Hungary's first king (970?-1038), preserved intact for over 1,000 years, is the relic of the Chapel of the Holy Right. The tower balcony of the basilica offers a splendid uninterrupted panorama of the whole of the city.

It is worth taking a walk along the straight Andrásy út, a boulevard that is now a World Heritage site. It is lined with 19th- and 20th-century Eclectic-style palaces. The State Opera House (22 Andrásy út), with its frescoed interior, seating an audience of 1,200, is a splendid work of by Miklós Ybl, Hungary's most famous architect, and has been the centre of musical life in Hungary since 1864. There are guided tours.

The City Park

The famous buildings of the capital's premier park were erected by enthusiastic Budapest citizens to commemorate the country's millennium in 1896. At the imposing Hősök tere ('Heroes' square') the Archangel Gabriel raises the Holy Crown to a height of 36 m. The centre of the square is occupied by a colonnaded monument commemorating the millennium of Hungary's conquest. A group of sculptures represent the Magyar chieftains, including their legendary leader Árpád, who led the conquering tribes from Asia into the Carpathian Basin. Between the pillars statues of kings, generals and politicians of Hungary can be seen. On opposite sides of the square are the two principal art museums of Budapest.

The Museum of Fine Arts contains the country's prime art collection. Its old masters section boasts the largest collection of Spanish masters outside Spain as well as an equally superb collection of works by masters of other nationalities, including Bellini, Brueghel, Corregio, Dürer, El Greco, Giorgione, Goya, Murillo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raffael, Rembrandt, Rubens, Titian and Velasquez. Famous pieces from the 19th century include those by Delacroix, Gauguin, Monet, Renoir and Corot.

The other museum is called Múcsarnok ('Palace of Arts'), and it is the country's largest exhibition hall, a suitable venue for major temporary exhibitions.

Erected on Széchenyi Island, Vajdahunyad Castle is an imitative anthology of some of old Hungary's famous buildings and architectural styles ranging from the Romanesque to the Baroque. Of the imitation buildings, the most important is the replica of the Castle in Vajdahunyad in Transylvania (today in Romania). It houses the Agricultural Museum, the first of its kind, established in 1896. The nearby lake is a romantic setting for boating in summer and ice skating in winter.

The Széchenyi Baths complete with thermal pools, Turkish steam baths and tubs, swimming pools and a water park (11 Állatkerti körút) is Europe's largest spa baths.

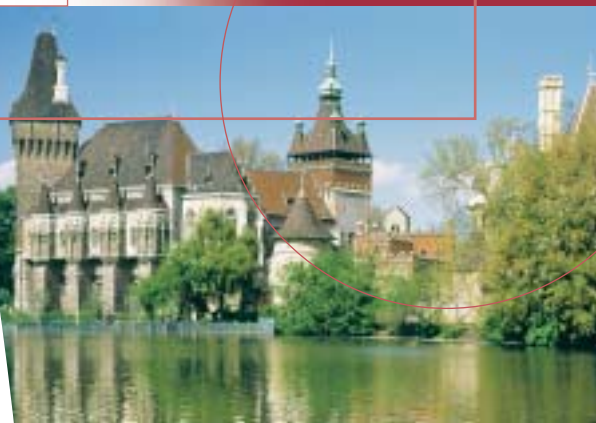
The Transport Museum (11 Városligeti körút) houses one of Europe's oldest collections of transport history memorabilia.

The 135-year-old Budapest Zoo, built in the Art Nouveau style, was the first of its kind in the world. Two popular amusement facilities in the City Park are the Metropolitan Circus and the Amusement Park where a 100-year-old merry-go-round, winner of the Europa Nostra Award, is still in service.

Two masterpieces of Hungarian Art Nouveau architecture are the Hungarian National Geological Institute (14 Stefánia út) and the Roman Catholic Parish Church in Kőbánya (25 Szent László tér). A design of geometrical regularity, the Wekerle Housing Estate in the 18th District, providing accommodation for minor officials, was an interesting social experiment. The Palace of Wonders at 19 Váci út is Central Europe's first interactive 'playhouse' of science, popular with children. So is the Park of Hungarian Railway History (95 Tatai út) with trains that visitors can drive.

Margaret Island

Lying in the centre of Budapest and the River Danube and closed to automobile traffic, the island can easily be accessed on foot from both banks of the river or by bus. A broad 2-km long green expanse of land stretching between Margaret Bridge and Árpád Bridge, the island is Budapest's most treasured and beloved park. Closed to automobile traffic, it can easily be accessed on foot from both banks or by bus 26 departing from Nyugati tér. It is a scenic island of peace and quiet with some trees that are hundreds of years old, the colourful tapestry of a rose garden, a thermal spring in an evocative Japanese-style garden and a waterfall. The little zoo is popular with children while the Hajós Alfréd Swimming Pool hosts international sporting events. For the ultimate summer pleasure there is the Palatinus Swimming Pool. Musicals are staged in the open-air theatre at the water tower. The ruins of a 700-year-old Dominican and a Franciscan church and monastery are the island's historical monuments. In the belfry of the Premonstratensian chapel, the oldest bell in the country can still be heard. In the high season minibuses are in service, offering faster and easier access to the sights of the island. Pedal vehicles can be rented year round at the Bringó vár ('Bike Castle') at the northern tip of the island near the hotels.



Vajdahunyad Castle



Hősök tere (Heroes' Square)



Széchenyi Baths





The Danube Bend



Szentendre, Fő tér ('Main Square')



Szentendre, Programme in the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum

The Danube Bend

The Danube Bend offers some of the country's finest landscapes, where the river passes between the hills and turns south. Formerly the property of the Crown, this land was the scene of major historic events in Medieval Hungary.

Szentendre (D2), with its winding lanes, seven aspiring church towers, colourful houses, narrow sidestreets, genuine Mediterranean ambience and scores of museums, galleries, guest houses and warm restaurants, is the most frequented tourist destination of the Danube Bend.

Four of the churches erected by the Serbian colonies that fled from the Turks and settled here from the 14th to 17th centuries still belong to the Greek Orthodox Episcopal Church. The icons, the work of gold- and silversmiths and other treasures on display at the Museum of Serbian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Art at 5 Pátriárka utca complement the exhibits in the Serbian churches. On Templom Domb ('Church Hill') you will find the medieval Roman Catholic parish church (Templom tér) dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries, with the country's oldest sundial on its wall. The Margit Kovács Museum at 1 Vastagh György utca is one of the most popular collections in the country. The artist's (1902-1977) charming ceramic figures radiate beauty, goodness and humanity. The Ferenczy Museum at 6 Fő tér exhibits the works of Károly Ferenczy (1862-1917), his wife and three children, the Gobelin tapestry artist Noémi, the sculptor Béni and the painter Valér. The Szentendre Gallery (2-5 Fő tér) and the Gallery of the Artists' Colony (51 Bogdányi út) house temporary exhibitions of contemporary artists working in the town.

The House of Folk Art (1 Rákóczi utca) details the ethnography of Pest County. A collection of Roman stonework (1 Dunakanyari körút) exhibits the remains of Ulcisia Castra, a Roman town from the 1st to 4th centuries AD. The Művészet Malom ('Mill of Arts') at 32 Bogdányi utca, a centre of fine arts and culture housed in an old flour mill, is a workshop for contemporary artists offering exhibitions enlivened by entertaining programmes. The Transport Museum at the HÉV railroad station boasts an incredibly rich collection of mass transport vehicles. Approximately 4 km from the town centre, the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum ('Skanzen') at 1 Sztaravodai út is Hungary's largest ethnographic collection. Monuments of folk art earmarked for preservation are transported here from across the country. Upon completion, a total of 340 buildings will be arranged in a breakdown of geographical regions detailing the characteristics of Hungarian folk architecture. Currently, seven geographical regions, a Greek Orthodox Church, a Protestant graveyard with tombstones and an ethnographic exhibition are open to the public from April to October. During the week-ends, visitors can learn the art of traditional folk handicrafts. The notable days of Hungarian folk tradition are also celebrated. There is a ferry service and a bridge at *Tahi (D-E2)* to the 31-km Szentendre Island, a popular hiking destination. Of the four places on the island, the most popular is *Kisarózi (D-E2)*, where there is a golf course.

Visegrád (D2), from here the Papal Nuncio, well used to pomp and chivalry, headed his letters 'from Visegrád, a Paradise on Earth' when he stayed as a guest and saw the breathtaking palace of the great Renaissance monarch, King Matthias (1458-1490). With 350 rooms and two-tier fountains of red marble, it was one of the most luxurious royal residences of the age. The Renaissance courtyard of the palace and the so-called Hercules Fountain, which used to stream wine on various celebratory occasions, have been faithfully restored. The original fountains and sculptures are stored at the five-storey 13th-century Solomon Tower, which is one of Central Europe's largest and most intact Romanesque fortified dwellings. Battle scenes are re-enacted in its courtyard on occasion. The tower is part of a defence system with massive walls connecting the 13th-century water bastion on the Danube with the castle on top of the hill. This system defended the royal court that was relocated here from Buda in 1316.

The Holy Crown was kept at the Citadel built between 1245 and 1255 for nearly 200 years. It was also here in 1335 that the rulers of Eastern Europe met for the first time in history. The kings of Bohemia, Poland and Hungary concluded an economic agreement, to the exclusion of Vienna. On the nearby heights there are three notable

things to see: the ruins of a Roman military encampment from around 330 AD on Sibrik Hill; the Nagyvillám ('Great Lightning') lookout tower on Fekete ('black') Hill; and Mogyoró ('hazelnut') Hill, a prime hiking destination with facilities including a bobsleigh course, a yurt camp, a camping site, forest restaurants, playgrounds and a game preserve open all the year round. Ördögmalmi ('Devil's Mill') Waterfall, Magda Spring and Telgárthy Meadow, an ideal place for picnicking, are situated in the Apátkút Valley. A thermal spring in *Lepence Valley (D2)* supplies water to the 33-m long swimming pool of a terraced forest spa situated on a hillside.

Esztergom (D2) is the seat of the archbishop of Esztergom, the primate of the Hungarian Catholic Church. St. Stephen (970?-1038), the first Hungarian king and founder of the country, was born in the castle erected here in around 970.

Built on Castle Hill in the first half of the 19th century, the Classicist cathedral on Szent István tér is the country's largest church with the world's largest altarpiece, painted on a single piece of canvas. The cathedral incorporates the early 16th-century red marble Bakócz Chapel, the only intact Renaissance edifice in Hungary. The Treasury of the Cathedral exhibits the richest collection of Hungarian ecclesiastical art of some 400 items. The private royal chapel, the frescoed castle chapel and a rose window in the vicinity of the cathedral are remainders of a Romanesque royal palace. The Castle Museum (1 Szent István tér) in the restored halls of the palace of Árpád kings traces the history of the castle in Esztergom. The head of the Hungarian Catholic Church resides at the Primate's Palace (2 Mindszenty hercegprímás tér), which also houses the Christian Museum exhibiting the most valuable pieces of medieval Hungarian fine arts. The Baroque ambience on Széchenyi tér is created by middle-class houses and the City Hall. Topped by two spires, its parish church (1724-28) is a unique monument of Italian Baroque architecture.

Vác (E2) is a one-thousand-year-old episcopal seat on the Danube bank. It was the terminus of the first railway service launched in Pest in 1846, at the time trains arrived here at a speed of 30 km per hour. The country's only triumphal arch, the Kőkapu ('Stone Gate'), can be seen here, erected in 1764 to celebrate the visit of the Empress Maria Theresa.

Konstantin tér is dominated by the imposing Classicist cathedral. The Episcopal palace (1 Migazzi tér) was built in the 18th century. The tabernacle of the Piarist Church and Monastery (Szentháromság tér) are also noteworthy.

All houses on Március 15. tér are protected Baroque monuments. The Church of the White Company (24 Március 15. tér) was named after the Dominicans in white habit. Its altar is a richly decorated Rococo masterpiece. Aptly entitled 'Memento mori', an exhibition in the air-conditioned cellar in the adjoining Baroque house displays rare 16th-18th-century burial memorabilia found in the vault. The bridge over the Gombás brook is the only Baroque stone bridge with statues in the country.

Gödöllő (E2)

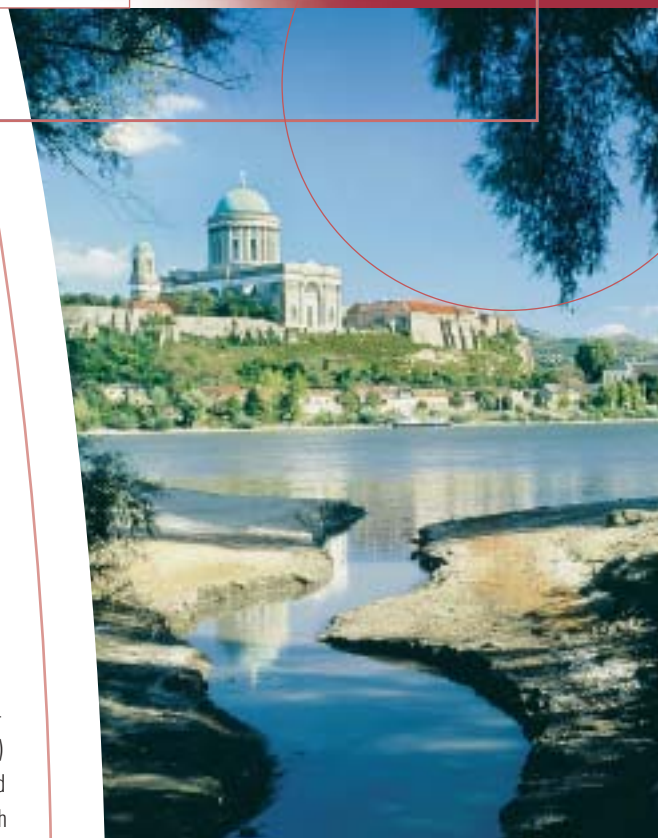
Emperor Franz Joseph and his royal consort Queen Elisabeth, affectionately called Sissi by Hungarians, would often stay in the 250-year-old Baroque royal palace (1 Szabadság tér) of Gödöllő. Classical music concerts and festivals are held in the stateroom and on the ceremonial courtyard. After 200 years the restored Baroque Theatre is open to the public once again. The chapel and Calvary in Elisabeth Park are from the 18th century.

Because of the 700-year-old miraculous statue of the Virgin Mary, the devotional church in *Máriabesnyő* was elevated to the rank of basilica minor and became a famous shrine.

The Hungarian Marlboro Grand Prix takes place at the Hungaroring in the outskirts of *Mogyoród* in mid-August. There is an aquapark adjoining Hungaroring.

Ráckeve (D3)

The Ráckeve Danube branch is a favourite area for anglers and water sport enthusiasts. The main attraction of the town is the fine Baroque mansion (95 Kossuth L. utca) of Eugene of Savoy, a great Austrian general, from the 18th century. The country's only



Esztergom



Gödöllő, Royal Palace

Gothic-style Greek Orthodox Serbian church, boasting a star-vaulted ceiling, a Baroque icon screen and several medieval Byzantine frescoes, is at 1 Viola utca. The Árpád Museum (34 Kossuth L. utca) traces the life and history of millers along the Danube.





Eger-Tokaj Wine Region



Hollókő at Easter

The highest hills in Hungary stretch across the northern part of the country from the Danube to the Tisza. UNESCO has registered the stalactite caves starting at Aggtelek and reaching through the Slovakian border, the old village of Hollókő and the Tokaj vineyards as a World Heritage site. Palóc embroidery and Matyó costumes are especially rich. The thermal waters supplying the baths in Bogács, Bükkszék, Eger, Egerszalók, Mezőkövesd and Miskolctapolca are recommended as therapy for locomotor disabilities, rheumatism and other complaints.

Hollókő (E2)

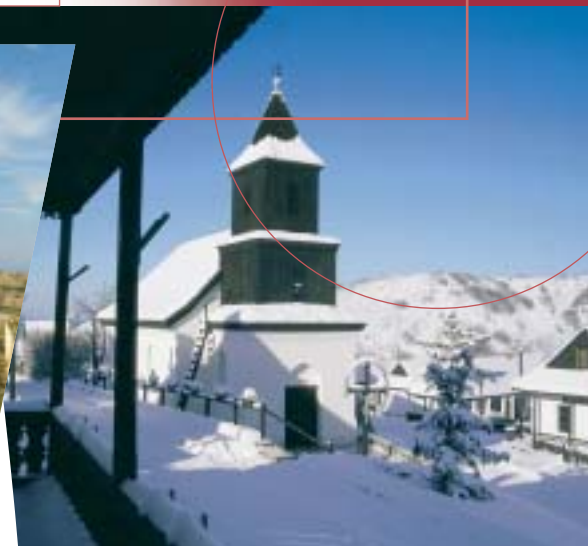
Secluded among the ridges of the Cserhát Hills, Hollókő was the first village to be declared a World Heritage site. The medieval structure of the village is unique: 58 buildings make its centre with a white-washed storybook church. The exhibitions in Kossuth utca also evoke the 19th century: at house 80 the Post Office Museum offers visitors a rare glimpse at the correspondence of the local families, banknote and stamp designs depicting the landscape; house 94 is an exhibition tracing the history of weaving as well as a workshop where women in traditional costumes show visitors various weaving techniques. The visitor centre of the Bükk National Park is dedicated to the Hollókő wildlife, the culture of the Palóc community and the life of farmers. House 82 is a traditionally structured Village Museum depicting life in the 1920's. The Doll Museum displays a collection of 200 large porcelain dolls in colourful Palóc costumes. On notable days the young girls and women of the village wear traditional costumes.

Many houses offer bed-and-breakfast catering. The 13th-century castle atop the hill offers a splendid view of the landscape and the old village.





Eger, Vineyard



Hollókő

Ipolytarnóc (E1)

A petrified ancient pine tree, sharks' teeth, leaf imprints, impressions of raindrops and waves: over 1,200 traces of animals from 22 million years ago. A prehistoric volcanic eruption caught animals at their drinking place, thus the soft sandstone preserved the footprints of rhinoceroses, hoofed beasts, birds and predators. These remains at Ipolytarnóc are a unique collection. This prehistoric event is evoked by an 18-m projected picture in the huge exhibition hall. A 9-m petrified piece of a 95-m, 23-million-year-old pine tree is the highlight of the Europe Diploma awarded nature reserve.

The Mátra Hills (E-F2)

Hungary's highest point is Kékestető, the 1,014-m summit of the Mátra. The 38-m lookout on top of a 187-m television tower gives a superb panorama. Winter sport facilities include ski slopes 300 and 2,400 m long, a ski-jump and lifts. The high number of sunshine days makes it a perfect place for a climatic health resort. The health centre at *Kékestető* is open all year round as is the hotel at nearby *Galytető* (964 m, the second highest point in the country).

Parádfürdő (F2)

Its thermal waters with arsenic, iron and alum content have been known since the 17th century and are especially recommended for gynaecological ailments. Attractions include an aristocratic red marble stable called 'Cifraistálló' ('Fancy Stable') at 217 Kossuth Lajos utca, and the Coach Museum (6 Hársfa utca), which exhibits sumptuous carriages and coaches in the history of Hungarian carriage manufacturing. A collection of 350 bottles of mineral water from 25 countries is also on display at 221 Kossuth L. utca.

The Bükk National Park (F-G1)

The huge chalk mass of the Bükk Hills include the Bükk Plateau at a height of 900 m and the rocks Istállóskő, Tar kő, Őr kő, Három kő, Magos kő and Örvény kő rising around it. Archaeological finds are at display at the Szeleta, Istállóskő and Subalyuk caves.

One of the country's most beautiful resorts, *Lillafüred* on Lake Hámori can be reached by a narrow-gauge railway from *Miskolc*. The fabulous Palace Hotel only adds to the romantic ambience. Two caves offer special experiences to nature lovers: Anna Cave with its unrivalled calcic turf formations and the St. Stephen Cave with its stalactites and therapeutic air.

In the summer, a narrow-gauge railway service departing from *Szilvásvár* runs across the splendid 5-km Szalajka Valley, where the Szalajka stream is vaporised into spray as it cascades down the 17-m steps of the Fátyol Waterfall. The Forest Museum reveals the life of charcoal burners. The bones of a tundra deer, cave bears, a prehistoric bison, buffaloes and mammoths were found in a nearby cave of primitive man.

The Lippizaner stud farm of the Viennese Spanish Riding School has its pasture in the neighbouring village *Csipkésút*, where an exhibition of the History of Lippizaner Horse Breeding (8 Park utca) can also be seen. The flora of the Bükk National Park is presented at the Orbán House (60 Miskolc út). The circular Classicist Protestant Church (30 Aradi utca) also serves as an excellent concert hall. Its bell dates back to 1488.



Parád, Cifraistálló ('Fancy Stable')



Lillafüred, Palace Hotel





Szalajka-völgy, Fátyol-vízesés ('Veil Waterfall')



Eger, medieval games



Eger, Cathedral



Eger

Eger (F2)

This one thousand years old Episcopal and archiepiscopal seat is one of the most beautiful Baroque cities in Hungary. Its inhabitants are proud of its glorious past and priceless heritage of monuments. In 1552 a handful of Hungarian warriors held the town's fort against a Turkish force of forty thousand. The Prison Museum, the Waxworks Museum, the Mint evoke historical memories, while the gallery exhibits paintings by European masters from the 15th to the 19th centuries. The Classicist Cathedral at Esterházy tér is Hungary's second largest church with the largest organ in the country. Opposite, the late Baroque Lyceum (1 Esterházy tér) - today a teachers' college - with ornate carvings and a frescoed ceiling houses the Diocesan Library, a collection of 150,000 volumes including the first book printed in Hungary in 1473. In the tower the country's first astronomical museum called the Spekula Observatory, considered to be 'state of the art' in 1776, can be visited. The most valuable instrument of the observatory is a periscope from 1779, projecting a live picture of the city onto a white table in a darkened room. The Archiepiscopal Palace (1-3 Széchenyi utca) houses the Archiepiscopal Collection (5 Széchenyi utca) presenting the lives and work of Eger's archbishops and bishops. The most valued treasure of the exhibition is a chasuble made from the coronation cloak of the Hapsburg Empress Maria Theresa. Splendid edifices along Kossuth Lajos utca include Baroque and Rococo city palaces: the junior provost's palace (4), the senior provost's palace (16), the house of Canon Wagner (6.), the Baroque Franciscan church and monastery (14) and the Buttler's House (26), one of the oldest buildings in the city. The exquisite wrought-iron gates of the City Hall are a masterpiece by the blacksmith Henrik Fazzola. Rising 40 m above the city is a Turkish minaret, Europe's most northerly Turkish building, with 93 stairs (17 Knézház utca). The Turkish bath at 1 Fűrdő utca is a reminder of the bathing culture that evolved during the Turkish rule in Hungary. The Palóc Folklore Exhibition at 12 Dobó utca provides an ethnographic overview of the Eger region. The town also offers a wide selection of full-bodied red wines. In the century-old wine-tasting cellars honeycombing the volcanic soils of the hillsides of Szépasszony völgye ('Pretty Lady Valley') you can taste the famed Bull's Blood.

A natural hot spring on the outskirts of nearby *Egerszalók* is worth a visit.

Mezőkövesd (F2)

The inhabitants of *Mezőkövesd*, *Tard* and *Szentistván*, which make '*Matyóföld*' (Land of the Matyó), are famous for two things: their Roman Catholic belief preserved in a Protestant environment and their particularly colourful folk costumes. Matyó embroidery is characterised by stylised, extremely colourful flowers in silk thread on a black background. Men's clothes are also decorated with embroidery. The finest examples by the embroiderer and pattern designer, Bori Kis Jankó (1876-1954) are on display at 22 Kis Jankó Bori utca. The Matyó Museum (20 Szent László tér) gives a glimpse of the hard life of the Matyó. The Matyó-style frescoes in the Roman Catholic church of St. Ladislaus (28 Szent László tér) were painted by a local citizen.



Bükk Plateau



Embroidery is made, folk furniture is carved, honey cake is baked, glass is engraved and pottery is made at every house in *Hadas*. Rare farming machines can be seen in the courtyard of the Machine Museum (32 Eötvös József út). On the outskirts of the town, the popular Zsóry Bath (next to the road), offering therapy for rheumatism, arthritis, other diseases of the joints and gynaecological complaints, with a wave and an infinity pool.

The Aggtelek National Park (F1)

One of the world's most incredible geographical phenomena and Europe's largest stalactite caves, the Baradla Cave in *Aggtelek* is a World Heritage site. Its Hungarian section is 17 km long, and has an underground stream. Guided tours leave from three entrances: from *Jósvafő* and Lake *Vörös* are short and medium tours on paved pathways wired with electric lighting. Long or special tours leave from Aggtelek to Jósvafő on a lantern-lit pathway. An entrance was also opened to the caves at Jósvafő, an enchanting small village reached along picturesque, winding roads and criss-crossed by the stream *Jósza*. Two major caves are located here: the 30-m high, 125-m long and 55-m wide Hall of Giants, abounding in stalactites and stalagmites, and the Béke ('Peace') Cave, where clean air therapy is offered to asthmatics. Lake *Vörös* and the other entrance to the Baradla Cave are 2.5 km from here. There is a trail leading to *Jósza* Spring and a small tarn lake. The 20,000-hectare Aggtelek karst (limestone), an international biosphere reserve since 1979, has a flora and fauna with rare species. Hiking tours and leisurely walks around the villages are excellent ways of learning about local culture.

Miskolc (G1)

Miskolc is Hungary's third largest city, known for its lively cultural life, natural heritage and monuments. The Greek Orthodox church at 7 Deák tér boasts Central Europe's largest iconostasia: its 16-m high picture wall depicts the life of Jesus in 88 pictures. The devotion picture 'The Black Mary of Khazan' is a present from Tsarina Catherine II. The Hungarian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Museum holds the richest orthodox collection in the country. On the Ávas Hill there is a lovely Gothic nave church with bells that chime every 15 minutes in a separate 16th-century belfry. The pride of the 250-year-old Miskolc University is the historical library of Selmec with 30,000 volumes including rare books of technical and scientific education. The resort areas of Miskolc are also full of tourist attractions. In the Middle Ages the *Diósgyőr* castle (24 Vár utca) was the dowry of Hungarian queens. An exhibition in the rondella presents the history of the castle, and Central Europe's largest waxwork collection. Nearby is a huge picturesque park with a bath and sauna. Madam Déry's House (24 Vár utca) was the residence of the first Hungarian operatic diva. The Museum of Paper Manufacturing (203 Hegyalja utca) presents the history of paper manufacturing in Diósgyőr. Hungary's first industrial monument is an 1810 iron foundry at Újmassa. Nearby is the Massa Museum, telling the history of iron manufacturing in Diósgyőr which includes exhibits such as a replica of a smithy. A trout nursery at Garadna, the ruins of a Pauline monastery, a ski complex at *Bánkút* and observation platforms overlooking the Bükk Hills are all within an easy day's walk.

The cave and thermal mineral bath in *Miskolctapolca* (Pazár István sétány) is a unique natural formation. The water, rich in minerals, and the crystalline air of the cave have



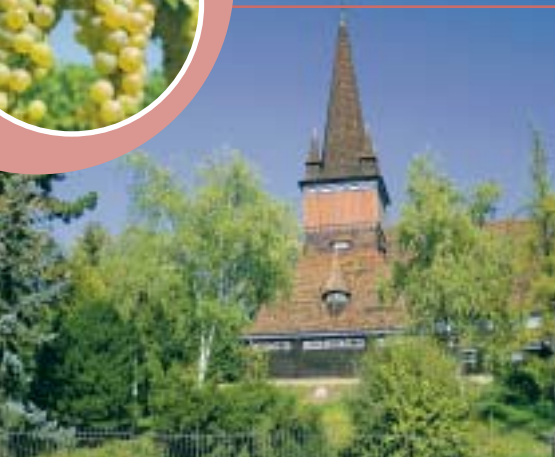
Aggtelek, concert in the stalactite cave



Mezőkövesd, Easter festivities of the Matyó



Miskolc, Orthodox church



Miskolc, wooden church



Diásgyőr, medieval games



Miskolc, Cave bath

a therapeutic effect on heart and vascular, rheumatic and respiratory complaints. Bathing is uniquely entertaining in an environment of special light effects, effervescent baths and a subterranean stream.

Tokaj (G1)

The historic Tokaj wine region, another World Heritage site, has been producing 'the king of wines and the wine of kings' for 450 years. Crowned heads of states, including Russian tsars, Polish kings and the Pope of Rome, were among regular customers of the wines made from grapes which ripen on the sunny hills until late autumn giving them a high sugar content. The exhibition at the Tokaj Museum (7 Bethlen Gábor utca) traces the glorious history of the drink initially used as medicine in the Middle Ages. A collection of icons and the Greek Orthodox church (23 Bethlen Gábor utca) are reminders of rich Greek wine merchants who once lived in the town. The Rákóczi Cellar (15 Kossuth tér), that once belonged to the Rákóczi dynasty is now a catering facility. Its 24 tunnels, with a length of 1.5 km, are suitable for storing up to 20,000 hectolitres of wine.

Volcanic hiking trails rich with protected plants lead to the 516-m high Kopsz-hegy ('Bald Hill'), which gives a full panorama of the region. By prior booking, a tour boat leaves the pier on the river Tisza for Sárospatak, 37 km away.

Sárospatak (GH1)

This small town used to be the favourite estate of Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II, who fought for Hungarian liberty against the Hapsburgs. The oldest parts of the Rákóczi Castle (19 Szent Erzsébet utca), rich in Gothic and Renaissance details, include the Red Tower, the late-Renaissance Lorántffy Loggia and the Prince's Palace, housing the Rákóczi Museum. The themes of the exhibitions are the history of the Rákóczis and the Rákóczi war of independence, the life and libraries of 16th-17th-century landed nobility as well as wine-growing and wine-making at Hegyalja. A collection of ceramics and stone relics is also on display. Boasting a Baroque organ and Hungary's largest wooden altar, the former castle church is one of the country's most valuable Gothic monuments. Recollecting the history of the famous Calvinist College where it is located, the museum (1 Rákóczi utca) houses the ecclesiastical treasures and the library of the college with its incunabula dating back to the 16th century. The Roman Catholic ecclesiastical collection (15 Szent Erzsébet utca) is housed on the first floor of the former Jesuit monastery. The school park displays statues of famous personalities. There is a regular pleasure boat service leaving from the piers on the river Bodrog touring the local area, and a boat service is available to Tokaj (37 km) with prior booking.



Tokaj



Sárospatak, Rákóczi Castle



The Zemplén Hills

Sátorajaujhely (G-H1)

Lying at the foot of hills, Sátorajaujhely, is the country's northernmost town with an atmospheric Baroque centre. Its most valuable monuments include a 13th-century Pauline and Piarist monastery and church ('Barátság'), with exquisite Baroque furnishings and high altar. The Casino, a centre of literary life in 18th-19th-century Hungary, today is home to the Kazinczy Ferenc Museum (11 Dózsa utca) which houses exhibitions of human and natural history. The tomb of the miraculous rabbi, Moses Teitelbaum in the Jewish cemetery, has become a shrine. The 14 stages of the Szár Hill Calvary commemorates the 1920 Peace Treaty of Trianon, which disannexed two-thirds of Hungary's territory. Situated in a protected park, a memorial hall and a shrine dedicated to the memory of Ferenc Kazinczy (1759-1831), leader of the renewal movement of the Hungarian language in the Age of Reform, are open to the public in *Széphalom*, 3 km from the town centre.

The Zemplén Hills (G1)

The starting point of a network of 2,000-km of hiking trails crossing the country, the 894-m high Nagy Milic is the summit of a 3-million-year-old range of volcanic hills. The line of the state frontier winds along its highest peaks at a height of 600 to 800 m. 2,400 hectares of the 25,000-hectare Zemplén Protected Landscape Area is strictly protected. Its fauna includes the imperial and the golden eagles, lynxes and wolves, and among its flora are various kinds of orchids. Other unusual sights are rocks up to the size of a room, remnants of ice-age stone oceans (Boldogkőújfalú)



Tokaj, Rákóczi Wine-cellar



Sátorajaujhely, Wine Church



The Puszta and Lake Tisza



The 'Pusztavendég'

Hortobágy is home to Europe's largest expanse of grassland prairies (the 'Puszta'), as well as salt lakes and marshes with treasures to be seen nowhere else. 'The prairies billow like the sea', as the Hungarian poet Sándor Petőfi, an enthusiastic admirer of the prairies and the river Tisza, put it. The Tisza is the lifeblood of this sandy country as well as the source of an inexhaustible supply of fish, the principal ingredient of the delicious Hungarian fish soup. In this region the sun shines more hours than any other region in the country, and abundantly flowing thermal water helps health-seekers to recuperate.

Hortobágy (G2-3)

One of Europe's largest expanses (over 1,400 km²) of protected prairie, where Hungarian grey cattle, stud horses, Racka sheep with spiral-shaped horns and buffalo herds graze on open pastures. A World Heritage site since 1999, the Hortobágy National Park stretches over an area of 82,000 hectares.

The Kilenclükú híd ('Nine-Arch' Bridge) is Hungary's longest (167.3-m) stone bridge open to road traffic. It spans the river Hortobágy near the village of *Hortobágy*. The nearly 300-year-old Hortobágyi csárda ('inn'), a characteristic Puszta restaurant, offers a selection of herdsmen's dishes. The Pásztorház ('Herdsmen's Museum', Petőfi tér) provides an insight into the life of Hortobágy herdsmen and shepherds. The Hortobágyi Körszín (Petőfi tér) displays the unique flora and fauna, folklore and crafts of the region, where visitors can also see grey cattle, buffaloes, goats and Mangalitsa pigs in open-air pens and sties. *Máta*, 2 km away from the village of *Hortobágy*, is the habitat of the Hortobágy stud. The Nonius breed has been reared here for 300 years.



The fishpond keeper's lodge at the Hortobágy National Park (milestone 67 on road 33) opens a wide view of an extraordinarily rich water world. The lookout tower at the keeper's lodge at *Szálkahalom* (milestone 79 on road 33) provides an excellent view of birdlife in the surrounding woods and salt lakes.

Lake Tisza (F2)

Smooth waters, huge bays, backwaters and islands, a rich fish and game stock - this is Lake Tisza, the country's second largest body of water (127 km²). The shoreline of approximately 80 km is lined with recreation areas, swimming facilities, camp sites and rental outlets. The expanses of shallow water, which warm up quickly, are ideal for swimming, the deeper parts for water sports including sailing, kayaking and wind surfing.

Uniquely in Europe, you can speed around by power boat and jet ski in the 14 km² *Abádszalók* Bay in the southern corner of Lake Tisza. The largest beach with a water slide, a beach volleyball court and sports equipment rentals is also located in Abádszalók. The Doll Museum (41 István király út) in the Village House, exhibiting over 250 dolls wearing the traditional folk costumes of the Carpathian Basin, is a fascinating experience.

One of the most scenic holiday areas of *Tiszanána* is Dinnyés Ridge, known for its atmospheric bays, backwaters and pleasant beaches. *Kisköre* is a place with a number of beautiful parks, where the Village Museum (5 Béke út) is dedicated to the ethnography of the region, and the Headquarters of Water Management (1 Május 1. utca) exhibits Avar Age memorabilia. Anglers and gourmets of delicious fish dishes flock to the fishing waters in *Poroszló* and *Sarud* during the catfish season in the spring and the pike season in autumn.

Tiszacsege's main asset is the 81°C thermal water gushing from a depth of 1,150 m, with excellent therapeutic impact on rheumatism and myalgia. The Kácsa ('Duck') Island is a protected area, where the rich flora and fauna of the Tisza Region survive untouched. The Cotter House (26 Óvoda utca) presents the poor cottager life that was once characteristic of the region. There is a regular boat service along the picturesque Tisza: a motorboat called the Zebegény runs up and down the river to Tokaj or Kisköre.

Tiszafüred is one of the most popular resort areas on Lake Tisza, where small boats glide along the backwaters of the Tisza among water lilies. The smooth sand of the beach on the riverbank and the frequently circulated water of the thermal and open-air baths in Poroszló utca offer excellent bathing opportunities. Established in 1949, the Kiss Pál Museum (6 Tariczky Sétány) exhibits the typical Füred-style saddles of the Puszta herdsman and the ceramics of the pottery centre. The Pottery House (12 Malom utca) displays the works of the best-known potter family and their workshop. The Meggyes Csárda Museum (*Tiszafüred-Kócsújfalu*, along Szeghalmi út near Meggyes Forest) is the only faithfully restored and authentically furnished period Hortobágy inn with an open chimney in its kitchen, a taproom and a cabinet made of board for saving the bottles during brawls..

The bird reserve in the *Tiszavalki Basin*, a habitat of herons, night herons, egrets, quawks and cormorants, is another World Heritage site. River tours leave from 15 landing stages.

Karcag (F-G3)

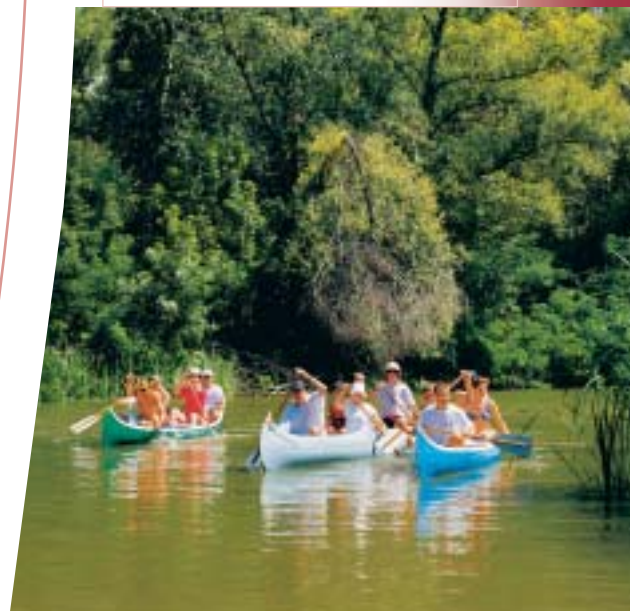
This typical market town of the Puszta owes its fame to glazed and black pottery, quick-fingered lace-makers, colourfully embroidered long felt coats of herdsman ('szűr'), spicy mutton paprikás and the Karcag milk loaf. The history of the region and its rich folk art can be seen in the Györfly István Nagykun Museum (4 Kálvin utca) and in the Regional House of Cumania Mayor, installed in a traditional Cumanian cottage at 16 Jókai utca. The works of the most famous Karcag potter, Sándor Kántor, including the traditional 'Miska' jugs of Karcag, are exhibited in the Pottery House (1 Erkel utca). Zádor Bridge is the only bridge in the country that does not stand over water due to the fact that the water in the riverbed beneath has long dried up. The southern entrance of the Hortobágy National Park is the Windmill Inn (1 Vágóhíd utca) presenting the special flora and fauna of the nearby Hortobágy. Of the sixty windmills that once were in service, only one from 19th century has survived (24 Vágóhíd utca).



Lake Tisza



Hortobágy, the 'Nine-Arch Bridge'



Boating on the River Tisza

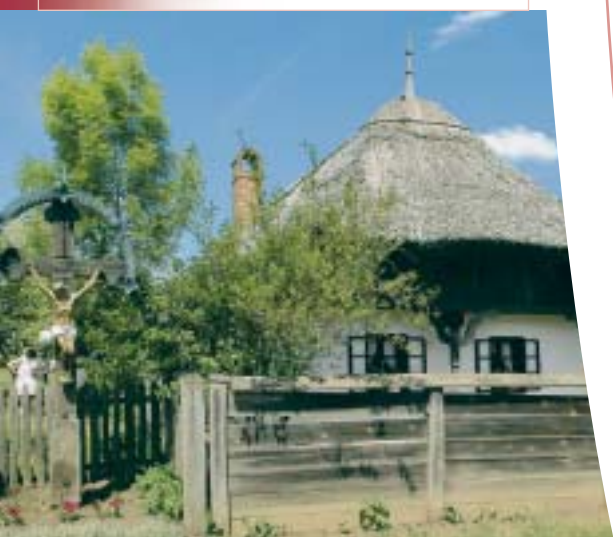




Hajdúszoboszló, Aquapark



Debrecen, Great Calvinist Church



Nyíregyháza, Village Museum

Hajdúszoboszló (G-H2)

The most popular health resort of the Puszta has been 'the Mecca for Rheumatics' for 75 years. The 75°C thermal waters, springing from a depth of 1,100 m, have long been used for curative purposes. A 2-3 week remedial treatment in the thermal baths (1-3 Szent István Park) works wonders for locomotor, gynaecological, dermatological and internal diseases. The micro-climate of the baths is attributable to the iodine-saline vapour lifting from the 10,000-m² water surface. With an annual 2,000 hours of sunshine, the spa on a 25-hectare area, the boating lake and the aquapark make it an ideal destination. The Bell House outside the spa boasts a collection of patented aluminium bells. The frescoes in the 18th-century St. Ladislaus church depict the discovery of the thermal waters. In the Pottery House (2 Ady utca) the replica of a 19th-century interior, decorated with black ceramics from *Nádudvar* is on display.

Debrecen (H2)

Owing to its pivotal role in the reformation movement in Hungary, Debrecen, today the second most populous city in the country, was called 'the Calvinist Rome' in the 16th century. The symbol of the city, the Classicist Great Calvinist Church, with an unpretentious interior seating 3,000 persons, is the largest Calvinist church in the country. Its treasured relic is the armchair of Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894), who proclaimed the dethronement of the Hapsburg House on 14 April 1849. The 180-year old edifice of the Calvinist College (16 Kálvin tér) houses an exhibition tracing the history of the college and one devoted to ecclesiastical art. Housing the largest ecclesiastical collection numbering 500,000 volumes, its library, a historical building, boasts many rare books. The painter Mihály Munkácsy's monumental Trilogy of Christ is on display at the Déri Museum (1 Déri tér).

The oldest hotel in the country, the Aranybika ('Golden Bull') Hotel (11-15 Piac utca) is still open to guests. The City Hall building at 20 Piac utca is a fine example of the Classicist style. An industrial monument, the mill at the corner of Böszörményi út is the largest windmill in Central Europe.

A nature reserve since 1939, Nagyerdő ('Great Wood') is the city's popular parkland area. Facilities here include a zoo, an amusement park and a botanical garden. The thermal waters at the spa in Nagyerdő (1 Nagyerdei park) are particularly recommended for chronic arthritis and sufferers of worn joints, rheumatism, gynaecological disorders, orthopaedic deformations and neuralgia. The roofed water sport facility (Aquaticum) nearby with cave baths, Jacuzzis and palm trees offers a genuine Mediterranean atmosphere.

Nyíregyháza (G-H2)

A tranquil and welcoming city with a patchwork of flowery squares and parks and the promise of pleasant strolls, Nyíregyháza is a city famous for its elevated culture of music and lively cultural life. The most valuable items in the Jósza András Museum (21 Benczúr tér) are the works of two artists from Nyíregyháza: the paintings of Gyula Benczúr (1844-1920) and the first editions of the works of novelist Gyula Krúdy (1878-1933).

Nyíregyháza-Sóstógyógyfürdő, accessible by narrow-gauge railway, is a health resort in a 46-hectare oak forest 4 km away from the city. A saline lake suitable for both bathing and boating, has made it a popular spa and health resort for over 300 years. The Museum Village of Sóstó (1 Tölgyes utca, Nyíregyháza-Sóstó) is a 7.5-hectare open-air ethnographic collection introducing the five areas in the Upper Tisza Region. In the workshops a ladies' hat milliner, a honey-cake maker, a sieve-maker, a bootmaker and a cobbler offer visitors an insight into the secrets of their trade. A complete range of buildings from the last century can be found here including a school, fire-house, bell tower, church, rectory, pub and a general store as well as homes from the wealthy to the simple peasant home.

Máriapócs (H2)

The picture of the miraculous Weeping Madonna in the Greek Orthodox basilica at Kossuth tér has turned this village into a pilgrimage site. Although following the miracle that occurred in 1696, by order of Emperor Leopold I the painting was brought to



St. Stephen's cathedral in Vienna, a copy of the painting is also said to have shed tears in 1715 and 1905. Pope Pius XII elevated the imposing church built in 1756 to the rank of basilica minor. Its Ecclesiastical Collection (17 Kossuth utca) includes many valuable memorabilia.

Nyírbátor (H2)

The 15th-century Protestant Church of St. George (24 Báthory utca) is a Gothic masterpiece of the master architect, the Franciscan friar János. Originally a single-nave Roman Catholic church with a vaulted ceiling, ornate carved capitals and glass windows, it was the burial place of the Báthory counts. The secret of the Nyírbátor concerts is the rich register of the organ and the excellent acoustics of the church. The largest and most beautiful wooden bell tower in the country, standing next to the church, and the original church furnishings, including wonderful Renaissance benches, now on display at the national Museum in Budapest, are exquisite masterpieces of Hungarian wood carving. The pulpit and the altars in the Baroque Minorite Church (19 Károlyi utca), originally built in the Gothic style, are the pinnacle of Baroque wood-carving in Hungary. Another gem in the church is a wooden altar, named 'Krucsay' after the person who commissioned it, depicting the Passion of Christ.

Tarpa (I1)

The highlight of this town is a shingle-roofed mill, formerly powered by horses, now an industrial monument (Árpád utca). A later appendage, the 45-m tower topping the 15th-century church was added to the church 300 years later. The Local History Museum (29 Kossuth utca) has a rich ethnographic collection.

Tákos (H1)

Built around 1760, the Protestant Church (Bajcsy-Zsilinszky utca) is a gem of folk architecture. On the painted wooden ceiling with 58 coffers, no two patterns of bouquets are alike. Consistent with the architectural traditions of the region, the shingled bell tower was built next to the church.

Csaroda (H1)

In Kossuth utca can be found a church which has stood for more than 700 years, the walls of which its new Protestant owners white-washed and decorated with floral patterns in 1640. In the course of the restoration of the church in the early 20th century the original frescoes depicting saints and apostles were uncovered. The turreted hexagonal bell tower was built in the 18th century.

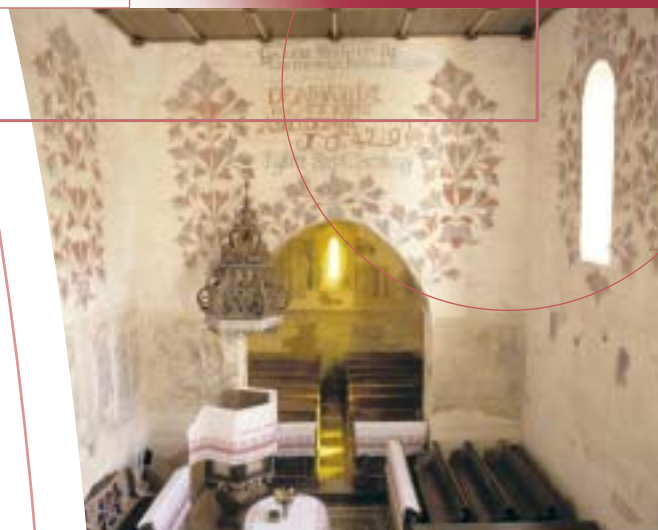
Túristvándi (I1)

The huge wheels of the 18th-century water mill, still in service, are driven by the waters of the river Túr, with a system of sluices regulating the water level. The original shingled bell tower of the 500-year-old Gothic Calvinist church is on display in the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum in Szentendre.

Kalocsa (D-E4)

Red paprika (which gives Hungarian dishes their unique flavour) hanging in garlands to dry under the eaves of houses, the floral patterns applied to the walls of porches, the beautiful folk embroidery and local costumes in fine lace punctuated with colourful floral motifs all contribute to the great fame that the one thousand-year-old Kalocsa enjoys all over the world. The Folklore House (7 Tompa Mihály utca) and the Museum of the Hungarian Paprika Spice (6 Szent István király út) give the historical background.

On several occasions the Hungarian composer Ferenc Liszt played the organ (one of the largest in Hungary) of the grand twin-towered Archbishop Cathedral (1 Szentháromság tér), built in Italian Baroque style. Of the 110 masterpieces in the treasury of the Archbishopric (1 Szentháromság tér), the most important is a bust of St. Stephen, the repository of a relic of our first king, who founded the Kalocsa Archbishopric in 1009. The library of the Archbishopric (1 Szentháromság tér) contains 150,000 volumes, including many priceless codices and early prints.



Csaroda



Máriapócs, procession



Women in folk costumes in Kalocsa





Hajós, a village of wine-cellars



Keckskemét, synagogue



Keckskemét, Theatre



*Keckskemét, Cifrapalota
(Garish Palace)*

Hajós (D-E4)

Comprising 1,200 wine-press houses, the cellar village of Hajós is an architectural curiosity. Adjoining press houses of identical size and style were built by the Swabians, who settled here in the Middle Ages. Fiery, mellow wines are for sale in the cellars dug into the fine clay soil. The wine houses of the cellar village also offer bed and breakfast catering.

Keckskemét (E-F4)

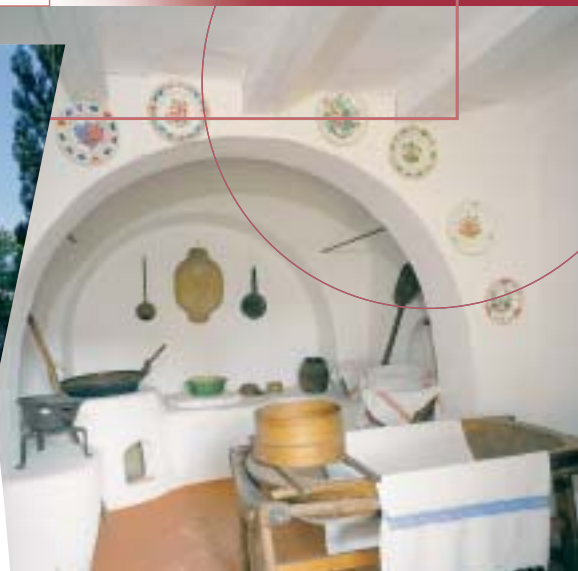
The city is famous far and wide for its apricot pálinka (brandy), Art Nouveau buildings adorned with coloured ceramics and the 'Kodály method' of musical education. A number of famous buildings grace the wide and impressive Kossuth tér crossed by promenades. The tile-roofed Town Hall at number 1, with its splendid floral ornaments and the beautiful frescoes in the conference hall, is a masterpiece of Hungarian Art Nouveau and one of the most attractive municipal buildings in the country. The tune of the chimes that sound every hour was composed by Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967). Students from all over the world enrol for courses at the Kodály Zoltán Institute of Musical Education (1 Kéttéplom köz) to study in his native city the Hungarian composer's method of teaching music. The oldest church in the city is the Franciscan church of St. Nicholas at number 5, originally erected in Gothic style 600 years ago but now with an exuberant Baroque interior. Outside the church are the Stations of the Cross. The foundation stones of the Protestant church at number 3 were laid down in the 15th century. The Nagytemplom ('Great Church'), also called Öregtemplom ('Old Church'), at Kossuth tér is the largest church in rococo style on the Puszta.

A fine example of Hungarian Art Nouveau, the so-called Cifrapalota ('Garish Palace'), lavishly decorated with floral patterns, stands 1 Rákóczi út. Inside, the collection of the Keckskemét Gallery contains the works of 19th- and 20th-century Hungarian painters. The House of Science and Technology operates in a former synagogue, built in the Romantic Moorish style (2 Rákóczi út), where authentic plaster replicas of 15 statues by the Renaissance master, Michelangelo Buonarroti are kept. The town contains many exceptional museums and collections of national importance which can be seen only here. The collection of the Museum of Hungarian Folk Applied Arts (19/A Serfőző utca) includes the works of Hungary's most reputed folk artists. The naive art collection of the Museum of the Hungarian Naive Artists (11 Gáspár András utca) consists of nearly 2,500 paintings and sculptures. The building also houses the Szórákaténusz Toy Museum and Workshop exhibiting over 10,000 railway models, toys from the early 20th century, folk toys and musical instruments for children. The Museum of Hungarian Photography, the only one of its kind, at Katona József tér, holds a collection of approximately 3,000 exhibits. The Leskowsky Collection of Musical Instruments (6/A Zimay utca) exhibits 1,500 instruments from all over the world. The guided tour, which includes a tasting, round the Zwack Fruit Brandy Distillery and Museum at the Zwack Unicum Rt.'s distillery (2 Matkói utca) is a memorable experience.





Szarvas, Bolza Mansion



Csongrád, fishermen's house

Bugac (E4)

The 11,000-hectare Puszta of Bugac, declared by UNESCO to be a biospheric reserve, is the most frequented section of the Kiskunság ('Cumania Minor') National Park, which is divided into nine sections. Highlights of the equestrian shows (gymkhana, riding and coaching) held regularly at the tourist centres of the region include driving stud horses and a breathtaking show of the 'pusztaötös' ('Puszta five'). During the latter the rider of five galloping horses balances on the backs of the two in the rear. The Shepherd Museum (Bugac-puszta) offers an insight into the everyday life of shepherds, hut buildings and shepherd carvings. The Museum of the Puszta Forestation Project (545 Felsőmonostor) presents the history, wildlife and the cultivation of forests on the Puszta.

Csongrád (F4)

A unique feature of this atmospheric town with its shady trees and groves at the confluence of the rivers Tisza and Körös is its centre, where 32 thatched houses make up the only village-sized folk monument on the Puszta. The Csongrád Museum House (1 Gyökér utca) consists of 2 buildings: 'the old house' and 'the large house'. With smooth riverside sand and shallow waters, making it safe for children, the Körös-torok spa and resort nearby are favourite holiday destinations.

Szarvas (F-G3)

The most famous sight in this settlement along the River Körös is the Szarvas Arboretum, also known as Pepi garden which was established in the late 19th century. There are over 1,600 different species of trees and bushes, including many rare species in this 82-hectare park. The 200-year-old school of agriculture (1 Vajda Péter utca) founded by the scientist, farmer and teacher, the Lutheran pastor Sámuel Tessedik houses a museum dedicated to local history and ethnography.

The dry mill at 1 Ady Endre utca, still in working order, is one of only three surviving dry mills in the country which grind grist and cereals. The traditional Slovak house museum (1/A Hoffmann János utca) is a 19th-century peasant home exhibiting nearly 1,000 objects. The Körös-Maros National Park and the Körös Valley Visitor Centre takes you into the world of the saline Puszta and floodplain forests. The Holt ('Dead') Körös with water stretching for 30-km is the country's fifth largest lake, an ideal holiday destination for families, children and hikers. Offering 11 species of fish to catch, it is an excellent place for anglers.

Other sights of interest include a mill-shaped riverside monument marking the geographical centre of pre-Trianon Hungary, a row of wooden sculptures symbolising the history of Hungary and a bronze statue depicting the wolf in the Capitol in Rome to be found at the Classicist Bolza Mansion on the Holt Körös (2 Szabadság utca).

Szeged (F4-5)

With 2,100 hours of sunshine each year it obvious why Szeged, situated at the confluence of the rivers Tisza and Maros, is also called 'the city of sunshine'. After the great floods of the 'Yellow Tisza' in 1879, a new well-designed city with fine edifices in Eclectic and Art Nouveau style was built with international assistance.

A number of famous buildings line Dóm tér, including the bishop's palace, the



Bugac



Szarvas, dry mill





Ópusztaszer



Szeged, Votive Church



Szeged, folk dancers

College of Theology, the educational institutions of the University of Szeged, a Roman Catholic boarding school, the Somogyi Library and the Medical School of Szeged. Completed in 1930, the neo-Romanesque bishopric cathedral, generally called the Votive Church of Szeged, seating 5,000 persons, is of impressive proportions. Its bell weighing 8.6 metric tons is the second largest in the country. The mosaic ceiling above its tabernacle depicts the Virgin Mary in an embroidered shepherd's cloak and traditional Szeged slippers. The organ, one of the largest in Europe with five keyboards and 9,040 pipes is featured frequently in concerts. The Tower of St. Demetrios is a relic of a 13th-century church. The statues of the outstanding figures of Hungarian literature, culture and science stand in the National Memorial Hall. The clockwork figures of the musical clock can be seen for 5 minutes at 12:15 and 17:45. Dóm tér is also the scene of the internationally renowned Szeged Open-Air Festival. The Rococo lace-patterned iconostasis, carved from pear wood, with 80 icons to be seen in the Greek Orthodox Church (Révai utca) is of immense cultural historical value. The turreted neo-Baroque-Rococo edifice of the City Hall at 10 Széchenyi tér dominates the square, which is punctuated with the statues of great statesmen of the nation. The Reök Palace (56 Tisza L. körút) is a masterpiece of Hungarian Art Nouveau. The imposing Art Nouveau-Moorish style building of the new synagogue at the corner of Hajnóczy utca and Gutenberg utca is one of the finest synagogues in Europe. The 15th-16th-century Church of the Havas Boldogasszony ('the Snowy Blessed Virgin') and the adjoining Franciscan monastery (Mátyás király tér, Alsóváros 'Lower Town') are the oldest late Gothic monuments of the Puszta. Of the two devotion pictures here, one is a copy of the picture of the so-called Black Virgin Mary in Czestochowa.

Pick salami and the Szeged paprika, a special ingredient of Hungarian dishes, a good measure of which gets into the Szeged fish soup, are world-famous products of the city. The Szeged Museum of Pick Salami and Paprika (10 Felső Tisza-part) recalls their history and outlines the entire manufacturing process of the world-famous salami. The Botanical Garden of the University (42 Lövölde utca) presents a marvellous collection of cacti, palms and other exotic plants. The windmill at *Kiskundorozsma* is one of the last surviving windmills on the Puszta.

Ópusztaszer (F4)

The area surrounding the memorial park in Ópusztaszer was the place of the 'blood-pact' which the chieftains of the Magyar tribes settling the Carpathian Basin 1,100 years ago made with each other. A statue of their leader, Chieftain Árpád, has been in the National Memorial Park (68 Szoborkert, 'Statue Garden') for 108 years.

The greatest attraction here, visited by hundreds of thousands, is the Feszty Panorama, one of the largest paintings in the world, portraying the arrival of the Magyars. A tremendous success, the picture was painted by Árpád Feszty and his fellow artists in 1894. The 1,760-m² panorama painting, featuring close to 2,000 persons, is on display in a building erected specifically for this purpose. An exhibition called 'Promenade 1896' displays life-size models dressed in contemporary clothes, evoking 19th-century small town and metropolitan life. In the garden of ruins, the history of one of the country's oldest churches, the Benedictine monastery of Szer, dating back to the 11th century can be seen. The St. Gellért Bell, weighing 500 kg, was made from 2,000 pieces put together by archaeologists. Exhibits included in the Open-Air Ethnographic Collection represent the life of the 19th-century in a true to life manner. A collection of agricultural machinery displays the most common machines once used in peasant farming.

Mezőhegyes (F-G4)

The town owes its fame to the Hungarian Nonius horses bred at the royal stud farm. Established in 1784, the Royal Horse-Breeding Institution (30 Kozma utca), one of the most important European stud farms of its time, left for posterity approximately 60





Mezőhegyes



late-Baroque works of agricultural architecture, of high aesthetic quality. The two triumphal arches, the Empire style roofed riding school, the former horsemen's barracks and the fully restored office buildings of the stud farm welcome visitors in their original glory. The barracks form the hotel which boasts suites furnished with pieces from the period. The Wagon Museum (32 Kozma utca) houses a collection of Hungarian carriage riding paraphernalia: carriages, sleighs, harnesses and coachmen's outfits.

An ensemble of architectural rarities of national importance can be found here, including the neo-Renaissance Central Restaurant (22 Kozma utca), the only half-timbered building in Hungary, Őregcsűr ('old hayloft') (10 Kossuth), the largest staircase in the country, the impressive Empire-style building of the central granary (Hild János utca), herdsmen's dwellings dug into the ground and heated by stoves on the outside (two in Manor 18 and one in Manor 48) and seven silo towers for grain storage (two in Manor 18 and one in each of Manors 23, 39, 56, 66 and 79).

The area surrounding the town offers good hunting for pheasants, hares, roebuck and fallow deer, while Béka-tó ('Frog Lake') is teeming with fish.

Gyula (G4)

Flowers, rose gardens, green parks and romantic promenades everywhere: an ideal destination for those looking for tranquillity. The symbol of the town is a 15th-century brick fortress, the only lowland brick-built fortress in Central Europe that has survived intact. In the summer the Gyula Castle Theatre performances are held in its courtyard.

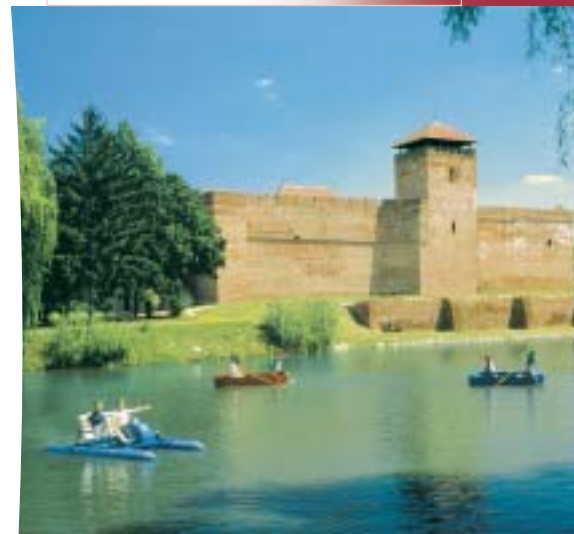
The Castle Baths in the 8.5-hectare park of the Almásy Castle opposite the brick fortress is one of Hungary's most beautiful thermal baths. The bathing establishment offers open-air and indoor thermal pools as well as theme pools including a whirlpool, a wave pool, children's pools and an open-air and an indoor swimming pool.

Dating back to 1840, the Százéves ('One Hundred-Year-Old) Confectionery (1 Erkel tér) is the country's second oldest pastry shop, with the original furnishings and fittings still in use.

The town's famous son is Ferenc Erkel (1810-1893), founder of the Hungarian national opera as well as composer of 'Bánk bán' and 'Hunyadi László', operas in which major historical figures appear. He also composed the music for the Hungarian national anthem. The Erkel Ferenc Memorial House (7 Apó Vilmos tér), his birthplace and former home, displays his harmonium, hand-written music books and family photos. Ladics House (4 Jókai utca), with furniture of artistic merit and Meissen chinaware, offering a glimpse of genteel lifestyle and interior design, is a dwelling house-turned museum, unique in Hungary in terms of both cultural heritage and ambience. The Dürer Hall (17 Kossuth utca), named after the great German painter Albrecht Dürer, whose family on his father's side came from Gyula, houses an exhibition entitled 'Centuries in Gyula', detailing the history of the fortress. The Collection of Devotional Articles and Remembrances of the Virgin Mary at 11 Apó Vilmos tér also includes garments of Hungarian monastic orders. The Farm Museum, 8 km away from Gyula, acquaints visitors with 19th- and 20th-century peasant life and farming instruments. A collection devoted to the history of the meat industry, (Húsipari Üzemtörténeti Gyűjtemény at 1 Kétegyházi út) traces the history of the Gyula salami, the hallmark product of the town.



Gyula, 'One Hundred-Year-Old Confectionery'



Gyula, brick fortress



Gyula, Castle Baths





Pannonien



Fertőd, Schloss Esterházy

In dem sich westlich der Donau erstreckenden Landesteil findet man alles, was den Urlaub und die Erholung angenehm und abwechslungsreich macht: „Königsstädte“, wildromantische Gebirgsgegenden, das Wasser flacher Seen, zum Spaziergang einladende Parks, Möglichkeiten für Wassersport und Fahrradtouren, außerdem geizt die Gegend auch nicht mit guten Weinen, Naturschönheiten und historischen Stätten. Die mit vielen Sehenswürdigkeiten gesegneten Städte finden wir in dieser bergigen Region, wo der Hüter des ungarischen Kulturschatzes, das Gebäudeensemble der Erzabtei von Pannenthalma, in die Liste des Weltkulturerbes aufgenommen wurde, wo der frühchristliche Friedhof von Pécs und das Gebiet um den Fertő-See hervorzuheben sind.

Vértes-Gebirge (D3)

Wildromantische Täler und seltene Gebirgspflanzen sind im Landschaftsschutzgebiet von Vértes zu finden. In der Esterházy-Höhle am Berg oberhalb von Csákvár lieferten Tierknochen und Überreste des dreihufigen Urpferdes den Beweis für hiesiges Leben vor 10 Millionen Jahren. Die schönsten Blumen befinden sich im Fáni-Tal und auf der Irtás-Wiese gedeiht prächtiges Federgras. Der gehaltlose rote Boden der Bauxitgrube von Gánt und Meleges wirkt dagegen wie eine leblose Mondlandschaft. Burgruinen überragen etliche Felskuppen. Der geologisch-botanische Lehrpfad zwischen Csákvár und Gánt bietet einen 3,5 Kilometer langen Spaziergang über den Haraszt-Berg und durch das Kólik-Tal. Der Anblick schöner Bauernhäuser erwartet die Wanderer in Vérteskozma.



Majk (D2)

Monks, dressed in white habits, obeying a vow of silence and observing strict rules, lived in the isolated cells of the Camaldulan hermit order. Built in the mid-18th century, the 17 hermit chambers were ideal dwellings for monks. Each had a chapel, a small bedroom, a workshop and a store room. Housed in one of the chambers, an exhibition devoted to the history of the order details their lifestyle. The church in the middle of the complex remains intact. Its tower gives a panoramic view of the surrounding area and a carillon chimes every 15 minutes.

Tata (D2)

Called the 'town of waters', it was a favourite royal resort in the Middle Ages, a reminder of which is the castle on Öreg ('Old') Lake. Today the castle houses within its walls the Kuny Domokos Museum, which traces the history of the region dating back to Roman times and displays a rich collection of archaeological finds and Tata pottery. An artificial ruin was built from the stones of the 12th-century Vértesszentkereszt Abbey in Hungary's first English park on the shore of Lake Cseke. The most famous of the water mills, once operated by the power of abundantly available water, is the Cifra Mill, the oldest monument of the town. The German Ethnographic Museum in the Nepomucenus Mill (1 Alkotmány utca) presents the artefacts and cultural heritage of the Germans of Hungary from the 17th century to the present day. The plaster replicas of ninety-six world-famous antique statues are on display at the Museum of Greco-Roman Replica Statues in a former synagogue (7 Hősök tere). The Geological Museum and the surrounding nature protection area at the foot of the Calvary Hill are interesting features. Layers of rocks in the abandoned quarry have preserved fossilised shells of 170 million years ago as well as a fireplace of pre-historic man. Next to the Calvary Chapel with Stations of the Cross is the 45-m high Fellner Jakab lookout tower. Fényes Spa, with its sports facilities, is worth a visit. Its water is supplied by spring-fed lakes protected because of their flora.

Komárom (C-D2)

The strategic importance of this town on the Danube has been evident all through its history: it was a colonial town of Lower Pannonia in Roman Brigetio; a fortress was built on the orders of St. Stephen in the 11th century and it became 'the city of fortresses' in the 19th century. The three fortresses in the town are unique monuments of military and industrial history. The Monostor Fortress, a building complex of about 40 thousand m², is the largest. Protected with a system of casemates and moats, completely invisible from the outside, it is the best preserved fortress in Europe. The much smaller Igmándi fortress houses the Roman lapidary collection of the György Klapka Museum. The third, the Csillag Fortress is, for the time being, not open to the public. Under the Treaty of Trianon, the northern part of the town was annexed to Czechoslovakia. The two parts are connected by the Erzsébet ('Elisabeth') Bridge. Situated in a quiet park with shady trees, its six pools supplied with thermal waters gushing from a depth of 1,268 m, the town's thermal baths offer remedial treatment for locomotor and gynaecological disorders.

Győr (C2)

'The city of encounters', Arrabona for the Romans, a diocese almost a thousand years old, the scene of one of Napoleon's military victories (the Battle of Győr, 1809), today an industrial city, famous for its schools and well-loved because of its atmospheric centre and fine Baroque buildings.

The heart of the ancient city is Káptalan Hill at the confluence of three rivers, the Duna, Rába and Rábca. Püspökvár (5/A Káptalan Hill), the residence of Győr's bishops, is easy to identify from afar with its squat tower. A 13th-century dwelling tower and the 15th-century Gothic Dóczy Chapel are the oldest buildings in the city. The Bishop's Cathedral (a basilica minor) stands on Apor Vilmos tér. Its Romanesque predecessor was built in 1030. The Gothic Chapel of St. Ladislaus (Héderváry-kápolna), built for the canonisation of King St. Ladislaus I (1077-1095), was added to it 400 years later. The gilded silver herm of St. Ladislaus, representing the pinnacle of medieval goldsmiths' art, is kept here. The Győr Diocese Treasury and Library (26 Káptalan Hill) holds the masterpieces of 1,000 years of ecclesiastical art. The works of Miklós Borsos (1906-1993), an outstanding representative of 20th-centu-



Tata, castle



Komárom, preservation of the national historic heritage

ry Hungarian sculpture, are on display at the museum named after him at (2 Apor Vilmos tér). Staged in the loft of the Classicist edifice called Kreszta House (1 Apáca utca), an exhibition of charming ceramic figures made by Margit Kovács (1902-1977) is worth a visit.

The Iron Rooster proclaiming the surrender of the fortress to the Turks in 1594 is the symbol of the city. It stands at the ornamental well on the Dunakapu tér. The fortress itself was ordered to be demolished by Napoleon. The Vastuskós House (No. 4) is one of the historic buildings on Széchenyi tér. The nail-studded block of wood at the corner of the house used to be the sign of a 19th-century grocer's shop. Apátúr House (No. 5), a splendid Baroque palace, the former residence of Győr's



Pannonhalma



Győr



Concert at Fertőd

abbots, now houses the Xantus János Museum exhibiting a rich collection of documents on urban and medical history, works of applied art and postage stamps. Three important buildings that used to belong to the Benedictine Order also stand on this square. One of them is the Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola, with its interior styled after the Church of Il Gesù in Rome, furnished with authentic early-Baroque furniture and decorated with fine frescoes. A pleasant stroll around the city could include a visit to the Zichy Palace (20 Liszt Ferenc utca), a scene of weddings and concerts. The wrought-iron embellishments of the Old City Hall (1 Rákóczi utca), the impressive Eclectic building of the new one (Városház tér), the Tuscan-columned courtyard of the Hungarian Ispita (6 Rákóczi utca) and the lavishly decorated enclosed balcony of Rozália House (21 Kazinczy utca), are characteristic features of the city's architecture and are worth seeing. The Váczy Péter Collection of the Municipal Museum (6 Rákóczi utca) includes Greek and Roman decorative objects, Renaissance and Baroque furniture, statues and paintings, Chinese porcelain as well as contemporary graphics. The 18th-century 'Foam Virgin' statue in the Carmelite church at Bécsi kapu tér is one of the finest Hungarian sculptures. A rich collection of 20th-century Hungarian paintings of the Municipal Gallery (17 Király utca) is housed at the Esterházy Palace. The Rába Quelle Baths (1 Fürdő tér) were built at the confluence of the rivers in the city.

Pannonhalma (C2)

The 'most ancient Hungarian house', a treasure of Hungarian architecture, the Benedictine Abbey has stood for a thousand years on St. Martin Hill, called in the Middle Ages the Holy Mount of Pannonia. UNESCO declared the abbey a World Heritage site worthy of preservation.

The 13th-century basilica is now the scene of organ concerts. Its Gothic sanctuary with a star-studded ceiling, its chapels and its crypt (consecrated in 1001, with the only fully preserved medieval cloister in Hungary) and the wonderful Renaissance wood carvings of its red-marble porta speciosa are all of special interest. The library, one of the oldest in the world, holds 360,000 volumes. Among its treasures is the charter of Tihany Abbey, dated 1055 and containing the first written record of the Hungarian language. The library's scientific and art collections represent a priceless value. Temporary exhibitions are staged at the Gallery of the Pannonhalma Abbey. A rich numismatic collection includes a number of Roman coins. The teaching order of Benedictines continues to pass on knowledge for the monastery still operates a boarding grammar school. The protected arboretum of the abbey opposite the entrance to the monastery contains a park called the Abbey Park and an expanse of parkland. The Monument of the Millennium was erected 100 years ago, celebrating the 1000th anniversary of the Magyar conquest.

Fertőd (B2)

The largest and most exquisite Baroque chateau in Hungary, the Esterházy Palace (2 Joseph Haydn út) was built over a period of 46 years, starting in 1720. 'The Hungarian Versailles' with a magnificent Baroque-Rococo topiary was commissioned by the Esterházys, the richest family among the landed aristocracy in the country, in order to hold a sumptuous court. Joseph Haydn (1732-1807) spent over a decade in this palace as a court composer. Today the palace is a museum housing Gobelin tapestry-upholstered, inlaid furniture and the valuable chinaware of 18th-century stately homes of the landed aristocracy. The Haydn Memorial Room at the Baroque House of Music (1 Madách Walk) commemorates the world-famous composer and musical director of the castle chamber orchestra.

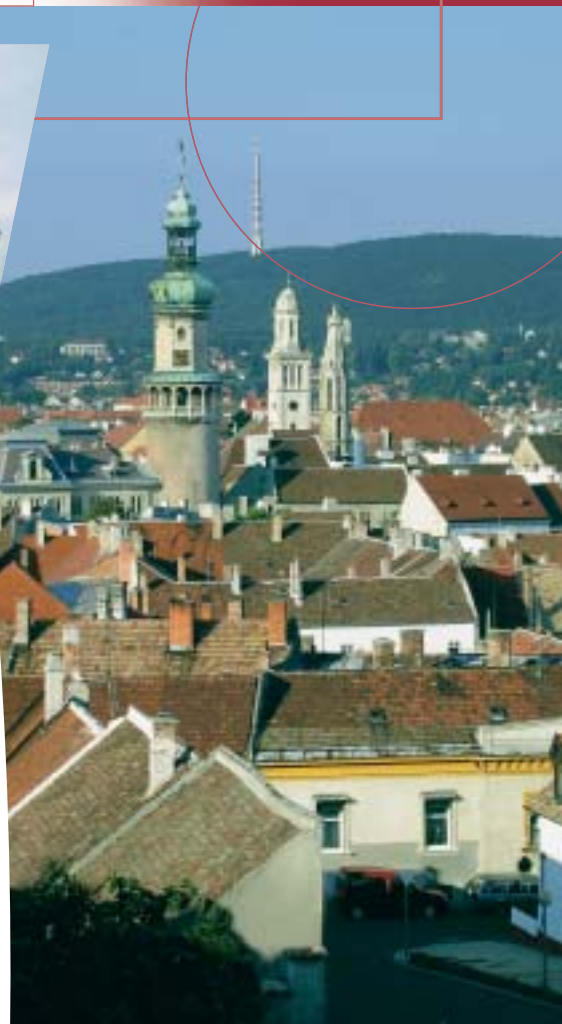
Sopron (A-B2)

Surrounded by the pine-covered Lövérék (an old Hungarian word meaning 'archers') Mountain and hillside vineyards producing excellent wines, this city on the Austrian frontier with its sub-alpine climate is the country's richest city in terms of monuments.

Called Scarbantia in Roman times, it was an important station along the Amber road crossing Europe from north to south. Remains of statues and stonework, once decorating its superb forum, are on display at an exhibition entitled the Scarbantia Forum. An exhibition on local history occupies the floors of the Tűztorony ('Fire Tower') (1 Fő tér), which is the well known symbol of the city. A Benedictine church with a Baroque



Sopron, Castle District



Sopron

interior and Gothic ceiling, often referred to as 'the goat church' in the local dialect, served as a venue for coronations and the Hungarian Diet in the 17th century. It dominates the charming Baroque Fő tér. The Baroque Storno House with a corner balcony (8 Fő tér) is one of the country's most frequented museums, housing the rich collection of the Storno family (famous collectors of the age) and a local history exhibition. The Tábornok ('General's') House (7 Fő tér) used to be the residence of the mayors and military commanders of the city in the 17th century. 300 years older, the Fabricius House (6 Fő tér) is one of the city's most valuable secular monuments. Its furnishings reflect the genteel tastes of the 17th and 18th centuries. Its medieval basement houses a collection of Roman stonework including a Trias ensemble of statues that once decorated the Capitolium of Rome. Another exquisite example of Gothic architecture is the Gambrinus House (3 Fő tér). The Pharmacy House (2 Fő tér) collects the finest furnishings and rare pharmaceutical books of the historical pharmacies in Sopron. The Ursulan Church (2 Orsolya tér) is one of the most splendid neo-Gothic buildings of the 19th century, with a collection, including wood carvings and goldsmith work of Roman Catholic Ecclesiastical Art in its oratory. In the middle of Orsolya tér stands an 18th-century well of the Virgin Mary. The arcaded late-Renaissance Lábasház ('House on Legs') (5 Orsolya tér) houses temporary exhibitions. A cosy wine shop was opened in the Caesar House (2 Hátsókapu utca), which can be recognised by the Renaissance balcony on the corner. Housing an exhibition showing the memorabilia of the Jewish community in Sopron, the medieval Old Synagogue (22 Új utca) was built in the late 13th century. The Eggenberg House (12 Szent György utca) was built in the late Renaissance of the 17th century style. Over its gate the coat of arms of the Brandenburgs and in its loggia courtyard that of Hohenzollerns can be seen. The 600 years old Gothic St. George Church (Szent György utca) was rebuilt in the Baroque style; the frescoes inside are from the 18th century. Templom ('Church') utca is the city's street of museums with valuable collections. The 13th-century medieval Káptalan ('Chapter') Hall (No 1), which used to belong first to the Franciscan, then to the Benedictine order, is a monument of exceptional value; its richly ornamented interior, statues and frescoes are unique in Hungary. The former Esterházy Palace (No 2) houses the Central Museum of Mining, detailing through working models, the history of mining and its manifestations in fine and the applied arts. The neighbouring 17th-century Esterházy Palace (No 4) holds a collection on the history of forestry, timber industry and geodesics. The National Lutheran Museum is housed in a pastor's home (No 12). The one-time merchant houses in Castle District surrounding the core of the town are now fashionable shops. The Szentlélek ('Holy Spirit') Church (Szentlélek utca), a Gothic masterpiece dating back to the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, is one of the most valuable monuments in the city. The country's only Bakery Museum (5 Bécsi utca) contains a baker's and a pastry cook's workshop, a baker's apartment, a bakery and a pastry shop. The Zettl-Langer Collection (11 Balfi út) consists of valuable memorabilia, including pieces of furniture from the period, special firearms and fine paintings. Erected 300 years ago, the ornate Két Mór ház ('House of the two Moors') (9 Szent Mihály utca) with its gate of twisted columns and eaves held by the figures of two Moors, is an outstanding example of what is called the middle class Baroque style. The Gothic 15th-century Church of St. Michael was built on Romanesque foundations. The ethnographic exhibition at 1 Deák Ferenc tér offers visitors a glimpse of the folklore of the old Sopron County and 23 different handicrafts. An ideal hiking destination and a habitat of various species of cyclamen, the Lövérék Hills, rising above the city, are part of the Sopron Nature Protection Area. The highest point is the 398-m Károly ('Charles') Peak, with a 23-m lookout facility giving a full panoramic view of the area. The popular Tómalom Baths are accessible by bus.

The surrounding areas also offer a number of tourist attractions. The imposing building of the Carmelite church and a monastery, with its fine Baroque steps, stands on a hill in the garden town of *Sopronbátfalva*.

The *Fertő Region* has been listed as a World Heritage site due to its natural and cultural heritage. Lake Fertő is part of the Fertő-Hanság National Park. The only resort area on the lake that is in Hungarian territory is *Fertőrákos*, famous for its quarry which resembles Egyptian rock temples. This Roman quarry provided stone for the construction of a large number of buildings in Sopron and Vienna. Today it is the scene of Cave Theatre performances in the summer. A spiral staircase leads to the top offering a full view of the lake.





Bükfürdő



Kőszeg, Pharmacy Museum



Nagyecsek, Széchenyi Palace

Nagyecsek (B2)

The Széchenyi Palace (3 Kiscenki út), remodelled in the 1840's, complete with gas lighting and bathrooms, was part of one of the family estates of Count István Széchenyi (1791-1860), an outstanding politician during the Age of Reform in Hungary and in the revolution and war of independence of 1848-1849. He built the Lánchíd ('Chain Bridge') in Budapest, the first permanent bridge over the Danube, founded the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and was a pioneer of steam shipping on the Danube and racehorse-breeding in Hungary. The István Széchenyi Memorial Museum details the varied career of the 'Greatest of Hungarians'. The Széchenyi Museum Railway runs to *Fertőboz (B2)*, where the Classicist Gloriette gives an unparalleled view of Lake Fertő. In the Locomotive Museum steam engines as well as passenger carriages and freight and lumber wagons evoke the history of the narrow-gauge railway lines. A lane of 600 protected small-leaved linden trees, planted 250 years ago, leads from the palace to a small grove.

Bük (B3)

This village near the Austrian border is famous all over Europe for its thermal baths. The balneological establishment (2 Termál körút) offers, in addition to medical examinations provided by rheumatologists and physiotherapists, remedial treatment for locomotor and circulatory disorders as well as diseases of the digestive system. The Birdland Golf & Country Club is one of the finest golfing centres in Hungary with its 18-hole course.

Kőszeg (B3)

Kőszeg is probably the only town in the world where the bells toll at 11 a.m. in celebration of a victory over the Turks, recalling the August of 1532, when - commanded by Captain Miklós Jurisics - Hungarian warriors, defending the Fortress of Kőszeg, withstood for 25 days the attacks of Turkish troops led by Sultan Suleiman, who was marching against Vienna.

The 13th-century fortress with four squat corner turrets (9 Rajnis József utca) emerged in its present shape after the fire of 1777. The largest bastion of the city wall is Öregtorony ('Old Tower') or Zwinger. The Fortress Museum displays the firearms used during the siege of the fortress, Kőszeg's historical memorabilia and 18th-19th-century interiors. Jurisich tér, one of Hungary's most beautiful town centres, is lined with exceptional architectural monuments. The Heroes' Gate, an impressive entrance to the square, was erected to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Turkish siege of Kőszeg; on the right is Lábasház (No 2), and nearly every house surrounding the square is a listed historical building. Memorabilia of guilds and the paraphernalia of local artisans and tradesmen, including watchmakers, butchers, comb-makers, honey-cake makers, locksmiths, barbers, weavers and photographers, are on display in the late-Renaissance Tábornok ('General's') House (numbers 4-6). The Town Hall (No 8) with its dazzling variety of architectural features ranging from 15th-century Gothic to Baroque, has been here for over 500 years. The ornate Sgraffitos House (No 7) is a rarity in Hungary. The Golden Unicorn Pharmacy Museum (number 11) with an upper floor houses the best items from a number of other lavishly furnished pharmacies and a collection of herbs. The Church of St. Imre is a building with a mixture of architectural styles. St. James Church (Jurisich tér) is the town's oldest and finest monument, with a late-Gothic sanctuary and wooden statue of the Virgin Mary, a 15th-century masterpiece. The Heart of Jesus Parish Church (Várkör) is famous for its marvellous glass windows and wonderfully aspiring Gothic pillars.

The Kőszeg Hills (B3)

Blessed with rare plants, the Kőszeg Nature Reserve offers a number of tourist destinations including Hétforrás ('Seven Springs') (its name is a reminder of the seven conquering Magyar tribes), the 18th-century Stájerházak (Styrian Houses) and the 883-m peak of *Írott-kő*, the highest point in Pannonia. The village of *Cák (B3)* is

famous for a row of protected thatched cellars housing a temporary exhibition on viniculture. There is a beautiful view of the countryside from the 13th-century chapel of St. Vid which is on a 568-m hill over the resort village of *Velem (A3)*. The village has a sub-alpine climate. Sibrik Castle, intended as a royal hunting lodge and a famous monument in the village of *Bozsok (A-B3)*, stands in a protected park.

Szombathely (B3)

Residents of Savaria, founded in 43 A.D., enjoyed the same rights as citizens of Ancient Rome. They built a splendid city from the proceeds of the Amber road which passed through. The old splendour and glory of the city can be imagined from discoveries made during archaeological excavations and also from the Savaria Historical Carnival held every summer.

The remains of the forum in the ancient city are exhibited in the Garden of Ruins (1-3 Templom tér). The Savaria Museum (9 Kisfaludy Sándor utca) displays fragments of the largest contiguous mosaic of the procurator's palace (and in the whole of Pannonia), the foundation walls of the 9th-century fortress (built from Roman stones), a 50-m section of the 2,000-year-old Amber road as well as archaeological findings from the shrine of Mercury, the public baths and the customs house. The 2nd-century Isis shrine in the Iseum garden of ruins (1 Rákóczi utca) is also the setting for the Iseum Summer Open-Air Festival. The construction of the twin-spired Episcopal cathedral (Templom tér), Hungary's largest Baroque church, commenced in 1791; its vast interior is adorned with works including frescoes, paintings and statues of renowned artists of the age. Sala Terrena, the ceremonial hall of the rococo Episcopal palace (3 Berzsenyi tér), is one of the country's finest Baroque halls. The Diocesan Museum is worth visiting for its splendid collection of ecclesiastical art.

The Dorfmeister Hall in the Diocesan Library and Archive (1 Szily János utca) displays the works of the famous painter. The Gothic parish church of St. Elisabeth (1 Aréna utca) is famous for its fine Baroque doors. Next to the church is the former Franciscan monastery. The former Dominican parish church of St. Martin, with Gothic frescoes in its sanctuary, was named after St. Martin of Tours, native of the city. To preserve some characteristic examples of folk architecture, 37 buildings from 27 villages have been relocated in the Village Museum of Vas County (30 Árpád utca) set up in a natural environment of lakes ideal for boating and fishing. The Kámon Arboretum (7 Szent Imre herceg utca) is the country's largest arboretum, its highlights being 50 different species of rhododendron which make a sea of blossoms in May.

Ják (B3)

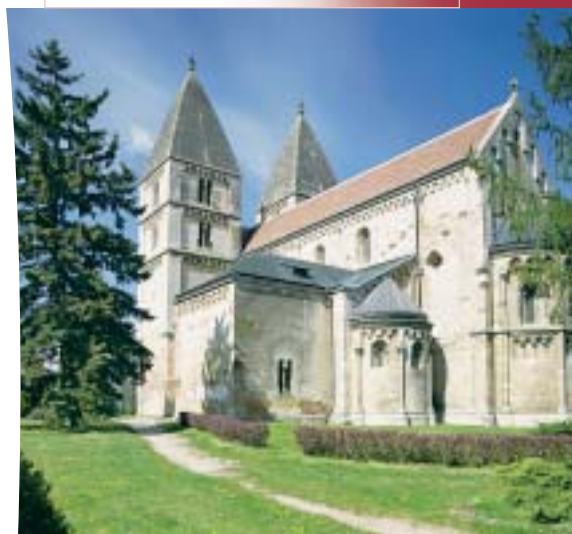
Erected between 1214 and 1256, the imposing St. George Church, once a Benedictine abbey church, (a smaller-size replica of which can be seen in Vajdahunyad Castle in Budapest) is the most beautiful of the Romanesque churches of Hungary. Graceful statues embellish its beautiful gate. Huge clusters of pillars divide the interior of the church into three parts. The frescoes on the walls are 700 years old. Opposite the church, St. James chapel, of identical age, is also a monument of great importance.

Sárvár (B3)

A long stone bridge leads to the pentagonal building of Nádasdy Castle (1 Várkerület), once surrounded by a moat. The castle served as a fortress and a residence for an aristocratic family. The Nádasdy Ferenc Museum, displaying a rich collection of applied art and housing exhibitions that detail the life of Hungarian Hussars and the interwoven history of the city and the castle, is one of the country's most beautiful museums, due to its lavish interior décor and valuable furnishings. The saline water of the Thermal Baths (1 Vadkerti utca) is used to treat rheumatic diseases, post-fractural complaints and gynaecological disorders. It also facilitates general recuperation and improves overall physical condition. Its use is recommended either in the form of therapeutic treatment or self-cure in the home, using bath salt, called 'Sárvár thermal crystal', distilled from the water.



Szombathely, Savaria historical games



Ják



Sárvár, reception hall in the Nádasdy Castle



Martonvásár, concert



Velemér, frescoes



Martonvásár, Brunszvik Mansion

Őrség (A3)

Covered with forests, the gently sloping resort area played an important frontier-guarding role from the 10th century. Its inhabitants settled on well-protected hilltops in colonies consisting of 5 to 10 houses. These 18 villages have preserved the settlement pattern of the age of the Magyar conquest: nearly every village has a number of old houses and a belfry. A fine example of the latter is the skirted belfry in *Pankasz. Őrszent-péter* is the centre of the Őrség. Its Romanesque church (15 Templomszer) is named after the Apostle St. Peter. The regional museum of the Őrség Exhibition House (55 Városszer) also deserves mention. Some fine examples of folk architecture, including a unique fenced thatched house and a pantry with an upstairs floor, are on display in an open-air ethnographic museum in the village of *Szalatő*, which is comprised of seven colonies. *Velemér's* 13th-century church offers some marvellous frescoes. There is also a medieval church in *Hegyhátszentjakab*. The nearby Lake Vadása is a popular recreational area.

Martonvásár (D3)

A Beethoven memorial town, where the great composer was a guest on two occasions. His close rapport with the Brunszvik family of Martonvásár and love for the 'immortal beloved' were sources of artistic inspiration for such superb pieces of music as the *Apassionata* and the *Moonlight sonata* and the final movement of the *Fourth Symphony*. His music books, the piano that he played and a lock of his hair, a cherished item in the estate of the family, evoke his memory in the Beethoven Museum, housed in the neo-Gothic Brunszvik Mansion. The castle park is a wonderful arboretum: a 40-hectare topiary with a small lake in the middle. On the island of the lake, accessible by an ambient wooden bridge, open-air Beethoven concerts are given in July and August.

Lake Velencei (D3)

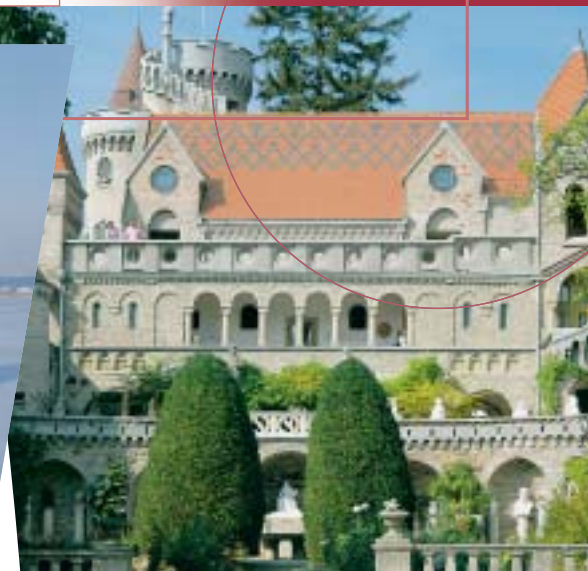
Owing to its favourable geographical and natural characteristics, the lake is one of Hungary's most popular resorts. It is aptly named the 'lake of sunshine', for the sun is out an annual average of 2,050 hours. It has an area of 26 square km, an average depth of 1.2 m and is rich in minerals. Its silky water is refreshing and relaxing. Winds blowing from the Velence Hills make the lake ideal for sailing. Secluded sedge marshes are favourite spots for anglers. *Gárdonyi* is the centre of tourism along the lake. One of the oldest resorts here is Velence, where a yacht club was started 70 years ago. The sunlit slopes of Bence Hill are dotted with rows of protected cellars, press houses and wine cellars. The hilltop gives a superb view of the lake. The 55°C thermal water gushing into the thermal baths of *Agárd* is recommended mainly for the treatment of locomotor disorders and gynaecological complaints.

Occupying one-third of the lake, the bird reserve among the reeds, which are segmented with narrow waterways and inner bays, is home to rare waterfowl. Twenty-eight species hatch here regularly. The lake is also fun in the winter, offering skating and ice-sailing. In the summer, pleasure boats cruise the lake from the jetties of *Agárd* and *Velence* to Szúnyog-sziget ('Mosquito Island').

Of the two historical monuments in *Pákozd*, one commemorates victory, the other defeat; nevertheless, both are reminders of the heroism of Hungarian soldiers. Dedicated to the victorious Battle of Pákozd on 29 September 1848 during the 1848-1849 War of Independence waged against the Hapsburgs, a memorial exhibition offers a re-enactment of the battle on a plotting board. The obelisk was erected to commemorate the centenary of the battle. The other monument is an ecumenical chapel, built in memory of the Hungarian soldiers who perished in the massacre along the bend of the River Don in the winter of 1942. The granite stones of Pákozd in the shapes of a dog, lion, sphinx and bear are rare finds in Europe. The bird reserve at the foot of Mészeg Hill is an important ornithological farm. The Pákozd-Sukoró Arboretum is the habitat of nearly 250 trees and shrubs, where there is a nature trail and a hide for bird watch-



Ice-sailing on Lake Velence



Székesfehérvár, Bory Castle

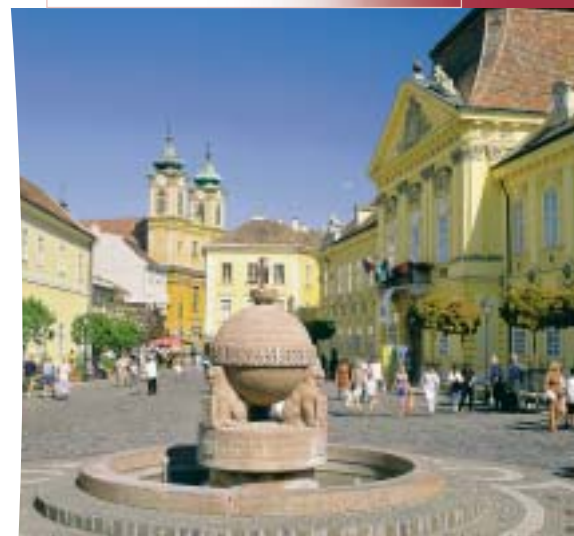
ers, which also functions as a lookout point. The lookout gives a splendid panorama of Lake Velence and its patches of reeds.

Székesfehérvár (D3)

Alba Regia, an ancient Hungarian city, with 'white', the colour of princes, in its name, was founded in 972 and was the first seat of the Hungarian monarchs. The country's main church, where 37 kings and 39 queens were crowned and 15 monarchs were buried, stood here for 500 years. The Holy Crown and the Archives were kept here and the Hungarian Diets were also held here.

The outstanding role that the city played in the Middle Ages is witnessed by the main sights of Városház tér, including the orb and the Franciscan church built on the site of King St. Stephen's palace, where frescoes evoke the life of his son, St. Imre, who passed away at a young age. The Turks destroyed the coronation church in 1602.

Today only its foundations can be seen in the national memorial place, one of the most important groups of monuments in the country (Medieval Garden of Ruins, Koronázó tér), including the stone coffin of King St. Stephen (970?-1038) in a mausoleum decorated with frescoes depicting historical events. The ossuary keeps the remains of the Hungarian kings buried here. On what is today Géza fejedelem tér, a castle stood as early as 970 A.D., along with a small arched chapel, the floor plan of which, made of white stones, can be seen on the road. King Béla, who was king of Hungary at the time of the Mongol invasion in the 13th century, built the subsequent Episcopal cathedral as a royal palace before he moved his household to Buda. The cranium relic of St. Stephen is kept in the Baroque cathedral. The only surviving medieval building in the city is the net-vaulted St. Anna chapel from the 15th century. By prior arrangement, the Carmelite church and monastery (Petőfi utca), one of the city's most splendid monuments, can also be visited. The walls of the church with a superb interior are decorated with frescoes painted by F. A. Maulbertsch. Baroque is the dominant style of the exquisite mansions of the landed aristocracy and the houses that once belonged to the middle classes in the city, which became a bishopric in 1777. The first Hungarian-language theatre operated here in the Győri House (15 Kossuth Lajos utca). The Baroque-Rococo splendour of the 18th-century Hiemer House (1 Jókai utca) with its closed balcony on the corner is magnificent. The Romantic residences at the Classicistic Vörösmarty tér show the workmanship of the architect Miklós Ybl (1814-1891), the city's famous son. The flower clock (Fő utca), always decorated with flowers of the season, is a rare sight. The skanzen in Palotaváros (11 Rác utca), winner of the Europa Nostra Award for saving folk architecture, contains 12 cottages and a Serbian church with a splendid iconostasis. The House of Trades, in the museums in Rácváros (Serbian Quarter), detailing small crafts and the life of the guilds, offers interesting activities demonstrating the various craft techniques, at which visitors are invited to try their hand. The sculptor Jenő Bory (1879-1959) spent decades building a romantic Gothic (concrete) castle with his own hands. Blending various architectural styles, the Bory Castle (54 Máriavölgyi út) houses his own works and those of contemporary sculptors.



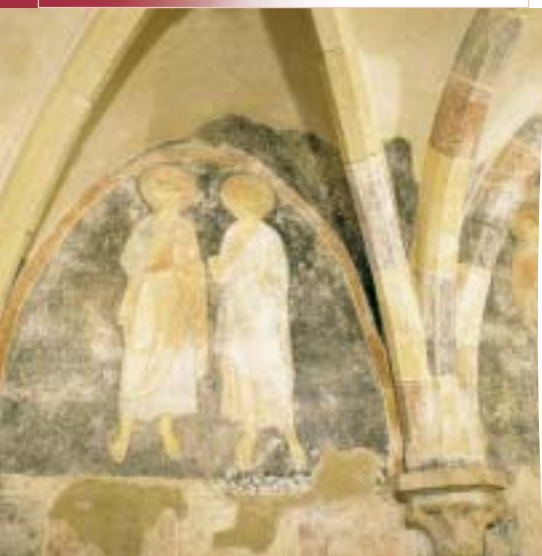
Székesfehérvár, Orb



Székesfehérvár, Pharmacy Museum



Cesznek



Veszprém, Gizella Chapel



Tác-Gorsium



Veszprém

Tác-Gorsium (D3)

The 'Hungarian Pompeii', a religious centre at Gorsium-Herculia, Lower Pannonia and the scene of the cult of emperors, had its best days in the 2nd to 4th centuries. Today it is the largest archaeological park in the country. In the course of excavations, ongoing since 1958, the walls, gates, forums, temples and sanctuaries of this former Roman city have been uncovered and explored. In 260 A.D. the town perished during an attack of Barbarians. In 290 a new city, Herculia was founded on the old ruins. Surviving memorabilia from this age include a large palace, a row of shops, two early-Christian basilicas, a public bath and the ruins of a cemetery outside the city walls. The ruins are in a large park creating a Mediterranean atmosphere. A few pieces of Roman burial memorials and tomb stones were relocated here. The park also provides premises for an exhibition displaying the most splendid findings and a Greco-Roman theatre seating 1,200 persons. The ancient festival of Floralia is held in late April and early May. The performances of the Ludi Romani, i.e. the Gorsium Summer Theatre are organised in August.

Veszprém (C3)

Called 'The city of queens' because it was the privilege of the bishops of Veszprém to crown Hungarian queens, this was the first bishopric in the country and it lies on the banks of the river Séd. In the castle district, where the royal palace stood between the 11th and 13th centuries, fine urban middle class houses along the 500-m long ridge of Castle Hill evoke the history of the region. The entrance of the Heroes' Gate is also here, while nearby is the fire tower (9 Vár utca) and Veszprém's Pantheon on the wall of the bastion. The collections of the Castle Gallery and the brick Museum are housed in the Dubniczay House (29 Vár utca). The beautiful Baroque Episcopal Palace (18 Vár utca) is open to the public. However, the halls and rooms of the Episcopal Archives and Library can be visited only by prior arrangement. The city is a unique ecclesiastical treasure chest: the oldest frescoes in the country can be seen in the early-Gothic Gizella Chapel (18 Vár utca) which was originally a two-storey structure. The Queen Gizella Museum houses an exhibition detailing ecclesiastical art and history. The sanctuary and crypt of the Episcopal cathedral, a basilica minor, can also be visited. The cathedral is the oldest Episcopal Church and was erected by Gizella of Bavaria, the first Hungarian queen in 1001 (18-20 Vár utca). The 15th century relic of Gizella is a gift from the German city of Passau. Erected in the 9th and 10th centuries, the St. George Chapel (20 Vár) is likely to have been the first church in the country. The Classicist Piarist high school (10-12 Vár utca), church and monastery (12/A Vár u.) are from the 18th century. The Hungarian nation erected here a monument in honour of its first king on the 900th anniversary of his death. The statues of St. Stephen and Queen Gizella stand on the lookout bastion overlooking the valley, offering a breath-taking panorama of the St. Stephen bridge over the stream. The Kálmán Kittenberger Botanical and Game Park (17 Kittenberger K. utca) is also among the finest of zoos.

The Bakony Hills (C3)

The hiding place of outlaws, the picturesque Bakony was a continuous area of woodland until as late as 19th century. Today the area of high Bakony is a protected nature reserve with lovely beech forests, picturesque valleys and over 1,100 caves (the caves of the Likas and Csatár Hills, Kólik and Szentgál, etc). Cutting through the hills, the gorges and ravines of the Gerence, Séd, Hódos, Gaja and Cuha streams are popular hiking destinations. Another magnet for tourists is Ördög-árok: there are iron ladders traversing the huge cliffs of Ördög-gát. 150 steps lead to the cave at Odvaskő once inhabited by prehistoric man.

The forests of the Bakony Mountains are a natural habitat for deer, fallow deer, muffs, wild boar, wild cats and 104 highly protected species of birds. Its highest point is Kóris Hill (709 m) with a lookout tower at its top. The primordial pine forest of Fenyőfő is one of the country's most beautiful pine woods, with 20-m tall trees of more than a hundred years of age. Europe's second largest yew forest can also be found on the outskirts of *Szentgál*.

Zirc (C3)

400 m above sea level, the church of the Cistercian Abbey (1 Rákóczi tér) stood in the heartland of the Bakony Mountains as early as 1182. Elevated to the rank of basilica minor, its present-day successor is a twin-spired Baroque church, with frescoes by F. A. Maulbertsch.

The historical building of the 65,000 volume Reguly Antal Library boasts some treasures of cultural history. In addition to its 15,000 journals and some codices, its lavishly carved furniture, including an inlaid table made from wood of different colours, all characteristic of the trees in the Bakony, is also worthy of mention. The Bakony Natural History Museum, displaying the plants, insects and birds of the Bakony in terrariums, aquariums and dioramas, is housed in the former residential apartments of the High Abbot.

The Zirc Arboretum (9 Damjanich utca), a habitat for 600 types of trees and shrubs, including a 400-year-old oak tree, is bisected by the Cuha Stream. The Antal Reguly Museum and Workshop of Folk Arts (10 Rákóczi tér) details the life and career of the scholar Antal Reguly, who studied the origins of the Magyars.

One of the most beautiful settlements in the Bakony Mountains is *Csesznek*, with a Gothic church from 1263 on a hill on its outskirts. In the course of its history it was once a prison, then later a palace. An earthquake and a fire caused by lightning laid it to waste, reducing it to ruins. It is worth visiting for the picturesque panorama of the region that it gives.

Herend (C3)

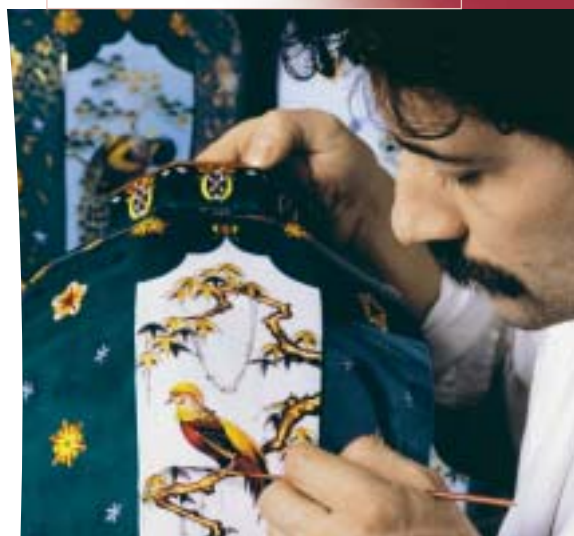
A favourite with British and Austrian royal households, Herend porcelain, the famous product of the town, has won 24 first prizes and gold medals at international fairs. The skills of painting this internationally renowned product are passed from father to son. The Porcelain Art Museum (140 Kossuth L utca) gives the history of the finest examples of Herend china, made entirely by hand, and of the china factory established in 1826. The Porcelanium, where the process of manufacturing china is presented in a mini-workshop is also worth visiting.

Pápa (C3)

This pleasant town, where prestigious schools educated a number of celebrities, including novelists and poets, is referred to as 'the Athens of Pannonia'. Standing in a protected park, the Esterházy Mansion (1 Fő tér) today houses the music school, the castle museum tracing the history of the town and the library. The 200-year-old working blue dye workshop, housed at the Blue Dye Museum (12 Március 15. tér), is an industrial rarity which offers a glimpse of the various stages of the process of printing white patterns on a blue background. The Gránátalma Pharmacy Museum (5-7 Jókai utca) continues to operate to this day as pharmacy. The town's most recent attraction is the Várkertfürdő, which may serve as a refreshing final stage of a long sightseeing tour.



Pápa, Blue Dye Museum



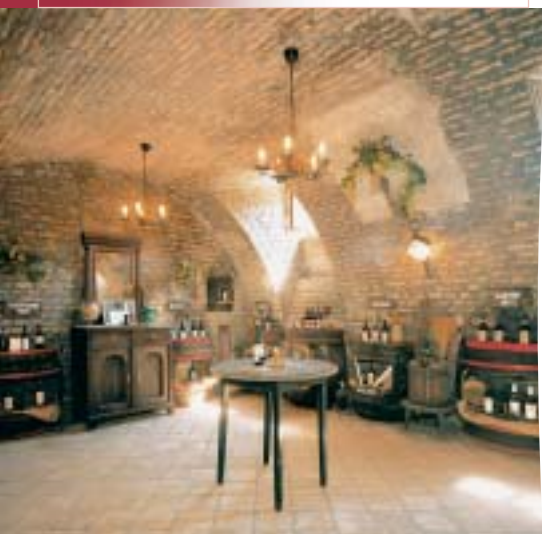
Herend, China painting



Zirc, library



Sümeg



Szekszárd, Wine House



Szekszárd, Candy Museum

Sümeg (B-C3)

The 13th-century Sümeg Castle on top of the 270-m Castle Hill is one of Hungary's best preserved and largest castles. Its museum houses an exhibition on the history of the castle, a torture chamber and a waxworks. The courtyard provides a setting for the re-enactment of historical battles, reminders of the former chivalric tournaments. An 18th-century hub of Roman Catholicism, it boasts some fine examples of ecclesiastical architecture, including the Episcopal palace (10 Szent István tér), the Franciscan church, which has become a pilgrimage site (7 Szent István tér) and the Roman Catholic parish church (Bíró Márton utca), the walls of which are covered with frescoes painted by F. A. Maulbertsch.

Szekszárd (D4)

Seven hills with vineyards producing historic, fiery wines encircle the atmospheric town of Szekszárd, where Ferenc Liszt composed some of his famous pieces of music (August House, 36-40 Széchenyi utca, with a memorial plaque on one of its walls). The piano and bust of the world-famous Hungarian-born composer and accomplished pianist are on display at the Liszt Ferenc Memorial Exhibition (1 Béla tér) housed on the upper floor of the old Town Hall. The birth place of the poet and literary translator, Mihály Babits, is now a museum (13 Babits M. utca) dedicated to his memory.

The Baroque church of St. Ladislaus, standing at Béla tér, the centre of the town in the Middle Ages, is Europe's largest single-naved church. One of Hungary's finest Classicist town halls, with the surviving remains of the church of an 11th-century Benedictine abbey also stands here. The local history and archaeological exhibition at the Mór Wosinsky County Museum (26 Mártírok tér) details the history of the town and its surroundings. The House of Arts at the former synagogue (20 Mártírok tere) stages temporary exhibitions. Szekszárd is also home to the Deutsche Bühne Ungarn, Hungary's only German-language theatre (Garay tér).

The bunch of grapes in the town's coat of arms symbolises the importance of the Szekszárd wine-growing region, famous for its red wines. A version of the coat of arms in an unusual and shape can be seen on top of Kálvária ('Calvary') Hill, from where you get a picturesque panoramic view of the region.

Gemenc (D4-5)

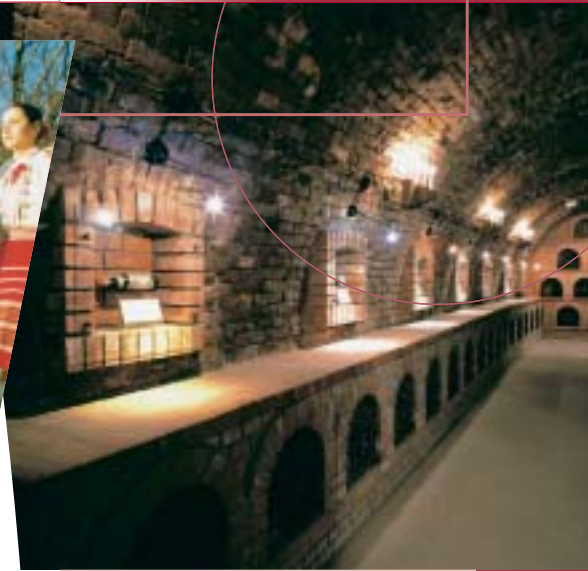
The 50,000-hectare game reserve in Gemenc Forest is Hungary's most beautiful floodplain forest. Covered with a patchwork of backwaters and fens and blessed with numerous islands, the nature reserve has preserved the natural environment that existed before the regulation of the Danube. The attractive little islands are home to old willows, huge oaks and poplars, lilies of the valley, egrets, herons, bald eagles, black storks, waterfowl and stags sporting the finest antlers in the country. The nature reserve is only accessible by light boat or narrow-gauge train running between *Báránfok* and *Pörbölly*.



Gemenc



*Mohács, 'busójárás'
(Buso masquerade)*



Villány, Wine Museum

Mohács (D5)

A port on the Southern Danube, the town is the scene of Hungary's most spectacular folk tradition called 'busójárás', originally devised to frighten off the Turks, now a merry carnival during which participants dressed in rags and wearing grotesque masks say farewell to winter and welcome the spring.

Most Hungarians associate the name Mohács with the 1526 battle bearing its name, in which the Hungarian army suffered a devastating defeat at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. It was the decisive Battle of Mohács on 29 August 1526, the bleakest day in Hungarian history, in which 20,000 soldiers were killed including the 20 years-old Hungarian King Lajos II, which set the stage for 150 years of Ottoman rule over Hungary. Commemorating the 400th anniversary of the fateful battle, a Byzantine memorial church was erected on the main square of the town (Széchenyi tér) with proceeds from public donations. The memorial park established on Török ('Turkish') Hill along the road to *Sátorhely* is a reminder of the battle that was fought and lost nearby. The five mass graves explored so far have been marked with painted burial signs with imitation human figures and horses on them as well as wooden headboards.

Villány (D5)

The Wine Museum (8 Bem utca) acquaints visitors with the wine culture along the Villány-Siklói wine route, the first of its kind in Hungary, connecting 11 settlements in a protected wine-growing area. The October festival of red wines, held every two years, is geared towards publicising popular Villány wines, including blue Oporto, Merlot, Blue Franc and Cabernet.

In the former lime pit on Templom ('Church') Hill the fossils of 240-year-old primordial animals, called ammonites, can be seen. Szársomlyó in *Nagyharsány*, 6 km away and featuring cliffs in striking shapes, is the protected habitat of indigenous flora and fauna unique to Hungary. Among them are the 'angry' water-snake (colubridae) and the secretary hawk as well as crocuses which bloom in January. There is an open-air collection comprising the statues of the past 30 years on the hillside, which doubles as an 'artists studio'.



Villány, a village of wine-cellars

Siklós (D5)

Situated in the country's most westerly town, Siklós Castle is one of Hungary's medieval fortresses that has survived intact. Turkish cannons left its walls unharmed; nor did Emperor Leopold I blow it up, contrary to the way he treated the other medieval outposts of Hungary. It has valuable monuments from each era of its history dating back to 1294, including Romanesque windows, the most ornate Gothic balcony in Hungary, a 14th-15th-century castle chapel, a Renaissance gated bulwark with a drawbridge and a Baroque castle palace, all attesting to a high level of architectural sophistication in medieval Hungary. In the parish church restorers discovered some exquisite examples of 15th-century Gothic fresco paintings.

The town was granted the Europa Nostra Award in recognition of the quality of the restoration of the pentagonal building of the djami of Makolcs Bey (Vörösmarty utca). The twin-spired Baroque Franciscan votive church in the neighbouring *Máriagyűd* is a famous shrine.



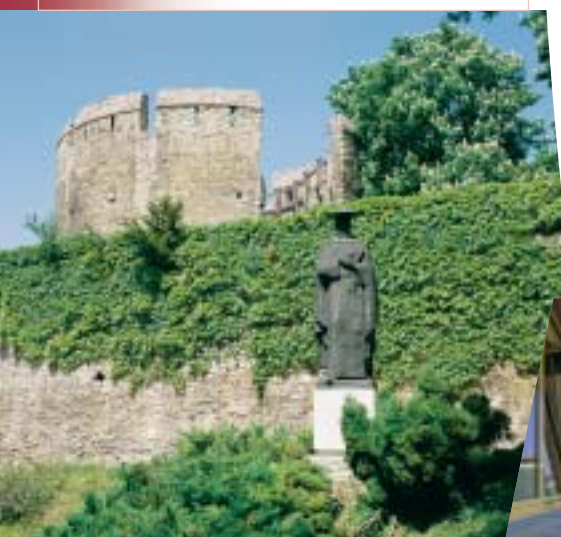
Siklós, fort



Pécs, Széchenyi square



Pécs, Basilica



Pécs, barbican

Harkány (C5)

Legend has it that the devil ploughed Szársomlyó Hill, and the furrows were filled with sulphuric water. Consisting of sulphur in the form of dissolved gas, this type of water is to be found nowhere else. Thanks to this natural asset, the town has been a health resort for 200 years. The waters of the Harkány thermal bath and spa (7 Kossuth L. utca) are used to treat all kinds of locomotor disorders, chronic gynaecological inflammations and dermatological diseases and in the follow-up treatment of accidents, fractures and arthritic inflammation of the joints. They are also used as a drinking cure for stomach complaints.

Pécs (D5)

Mysterious burial chambers from Roman times, domed Turkish djamis, a slender minaret, exquisite Zsolnay chinaware, enigmatic paintings by Csontváry, highly decorative Vasarely patterns, almond trees blossoming in early spring and cosy restaurants and cafés - this is Pécs. Situated in the southern foothills of the Mecsek Hills, the 2,000-year-old city with a Mediterranean climate and ambience was made an episcopal see in 1009. The road leading to the hilltop is lined with atmospheric houses along the steep streets of Tettve, the old city of Pécs. The Misina hilltop at a height of 535 m offers a wonderful view of the city and its environs. Those walking along the signposted trails in Mecseki Parkerdő ('Park Forest') may want to taste the famous wines produced on the hill.

Sopianae, the ancient Roman predecessor of Pécs, was a major centre of early Christianity. An unparalleled 4th-century ensemble of monuments, listed by UNESCO in 2000 as a World Heritage site, is a necropolis comprised of 16 edifices. The two-storied mausoleum (Szent István tér) is Hungary's most important early Christian monument, with frescoes, monograms of Christ and the remains of three sarcophagi in its burial chamber. The Jug Chamber owes its name to one of the paintings on its walls and is accessible via Dóm tér. The 11th-century crypt of the four-spired Episcopal cathedral on Dóm tér (a basilica minor since 1993) is one of the country's first Christian churches. The side chapels and sacristies of the cathedral contain numerous art treasures. The Roman findings from the excavations in its vicinity are on display in its lapidary collection. From the balcony of the neo-Renaissance building of the Episcopal Palace (Dóm tér) a statue of Ferenc Liszt looks out onto the square. The 15th-century barbican, a massive rotund bastion nearby (2 Esze Tamás utca) served as a system of defence for the bishop's castle.

The green cupola of the djami of Khasim Pasha (Széchenyi tér), the most important relic of the 150 years of Ottoman rule, is a major contributor to the character of the city. With a mihrab alcove and ogee-arched windows, it is now a Roman Catholic church. The djami of Jakovali Hassan Pasha (2 Rákóczi út), which is today a house of prayer, is the most complete surviving masterpiece of Moslem architecture, its museum displaying Turkish artefacts of historic and artistic importance. The adjoining minaret is 23-m high. The türbe of Idris Baba squatting on Rókus Hill (8 Nyár utca) is a Turkish shrine. The unearthed remains of Memi Pasha's baths are also open to the public (33 Ferencesek utca).



Harkány, spa



Pécs, Színház ('Theatre') square



Pécs, China painter

The city boasts important Baroque monuments, including a Franciscan church and monastery (35 Ferencsek utcája), with furnishings made by Franciscan monks, the Lyceum church and the former monastery of the Pauline order (44 Király utca). There is a Carmelite nunnery next to the church of All Saints (Tettye utca). The chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Havi Hill was built by the survivors of the plague in 1691. An interesting architectural feature of St. Augustine's church (Ágoston tér) is an ogee-arched window from a Turkish mosque. The church of the Sisters of Charity (5 Széchenyi tér) has a façade in the Eclectic style and inlaid altars, each with an individual design.

Nearly every house along Káptalan utca is a museum. Number 2 is the Zsolnay Museum, which displays a collection of ceramics representing major milestones in the history of the world-famous Zsolnay porcelain and the artefacts that were awarded the golden Prize at the 1878 Paris World Expo. It also houses a memorial room dedicated to Vilmos Zsolnay, founder of the Zsolnay Porcelain Works. An exhibition displaying the works of the Hungarian-born sculptor, Amerigo Tot occupies the ground floor. Another wing of the building holds a lapidary collection of Renaissance stone monuments from Pécs and its surrounding area. Number 3 is the birth house of Victor Vasarely, world-famous inventor of abstract geometry or op-art. In addition to his opus major, works of 20th-century foreign artists are also on display in the Vasarely Museum. In the basement of the house the Mecsek Museum of Mining is an interesting exhibition. The Modern Hungarian Gallery at No 4 houses one of the richest collections of 19th-20th-century Hungarian fine art. Separate collections of the works of three 20th-century artists are on display at numbers 5 and 6. The neo-Renaissance building of the Csontváry Museum (11 Janus Pannonius utca) is a befitting location for displaying the oeuvre, combining romanticism, symbolism and expressionism, of Tivadar Csontváry Kosztka, an outstanding representative of Hungarian painting. Exhibitions at the Janus Pannonius Museum offer an insight into the rich heritage of multi-ethnic Baranya County. The ethnographic exhibition at 15 Rákóczi utca is dedicated to the diverse folklore of ethnic minorities (Germans and South Slavs). An archaeological exhibition at 12 Széchenyi tér traces the history of the region from pre-historic times to the age of the Great Migration. A natural sciences exhibition (2 Szabadság utca) acquaints the visitor with the flora and fauna of the Mecsek Hills and the surrounding region. The Urban History Museum (9 Felsőlalom utca) details the past 200 years of the history of Pécs in an easy to follow manner.



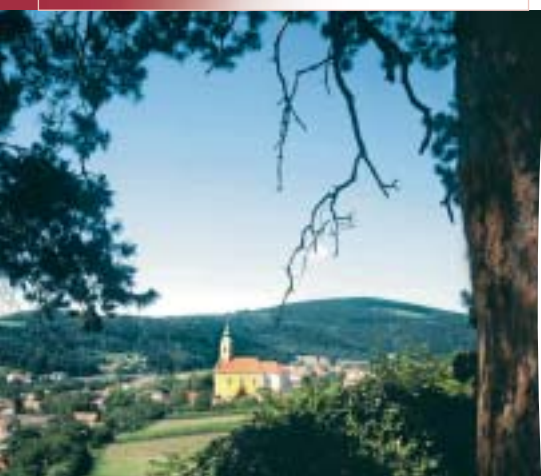
Pécs, well made of Zsolnay porcelain



Pécs, Ancient Christian crypt with a depiction of the prophet Daniel



Pécsvárad



Mecseknádasd



Walk in the woods of the Mecsek Hills



Szigetvár

Pécsvárad (D5)

The Benedictine Abbey and Monastery in Pécsvárad was founded in 1000. Bishop Astrik, the first abbot of Pécsvárad, brought home the Crown of King St. Stephen, a gift from the Pope in Rome. He assisted the King with establishing the church and the state in 11th-century Hungary. The Fortress of Pécsvárad, built in the 13th century upon the monastery, is one of the most important medieval monuments of Hungary. Its most intact parts are the old tower (currently a hotel) and the 15-m unearthed nave and frescoed sanctuary of the Benedictine abbey church. The Fortress Museum (45 Vár utca), housing an exhibition that displays the archaeological memorabilia of the fortress and the abbey, is located in the 18th-century castle.

Szigetvár (C5)

Szigetvár has been a symbol of self-sacrificing patriotism since the Turkish invasion of 1566. Following a 22-day siege of the fortress and having defended the fort against the Turks, 24 times superior in number, the soldiers, led by Captain Miklós Zrínyi, broke out of the fortress, sacrificing their lives in close combat. A lion statue, a memorial of their heroism, stands on the original battlefield, called the Park of Turkish-Hungarian Friendship, where 400 years after the battle the effigies of Miklós Zrínyi and Suleiman II are placed next to each other.

Architectural monuments of the Ottoman rule of the town include Ali Pasha's djami, built in 1589, today a Baroque Roman Catholic parish church (9 Zrínyi tér) and a dwelling house, the only one of its kind in Hungary. The latter, called the Turkish House (3 Bástyá utca), holds an exhibition showing the Ottoman era. The visible parts of the fortress, the mosque and a minaret, (9 Vár utca) were also built by the Turks. Interestingly, the old turbe (tomb) built in Turbék-Pusztá is currently a Baroque Roman Catholic church, and a holy pilgrimage place for Muslim Turks.

An exhibition staged at the Zrínyi Miklós Fortress Museum (19 Vár utca) provides an insight into the history of the fortress and displays related archaeological findings. Scenes depicting the siege of Szigetvár on the walls of the parish church of St. Rókus (Ali Pasha's djami) are worth looking at.

The Mecsek Hills (D5)

The Mecsek Hills are an ideal place for excursions and a popular area for lovers of rural tourism. The air is fresh in the high hills, protected flowers are colourful and the food is delicious in the villages around Zengő Hill, the highest point in the range. The fantastic rock formations of Jakab Hill that display doll-like shapes, the Melegmányi Valley with its series of waterfalls, the ancient chestnut forest blooming in June, the European-chestnut orchard at Zengővárkony, the arboretums of Kisújbánya and Püspökszentlászló as well as the hiker's path among waterfalls of Óbánya Valley are favorite destinations for hikers.



Kaposvár, pedestrian zone



Kaposvár

Abaliget (C-D5)

Lakes ideal for boating and fishing add to the special ambience of this resort area famous for its stalactite cave, in which there is a pathway following the course of an underground stream. There are interesting rock and stalactite formations along the half-mile pathway and the cave is renowned also for its climatic healing properties.

Kaposvár (C4)

A walk in the town of Kaposvár, situated between Lake Balaton and the Mecsek Hills, take you past a charming variety of buildings, representing almost every style of architecture. The neo-Romanesque and neo-Gothic Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Kossuth tér) was elevated to cathedral status in 1993, when the city was made an Episcopal see. The Hungarian Art Nouveau style Town Hall (Kossuth tér) with its colourful glass windows, the Zsolnay tiles of Hotel Erzsébet (Noszlopy utca) and the twin-turreted building of the Csiky Gergely Theatre are Kaposvár's main highlights. Dorottya House, an 18th-century late-Baroque steward's house (1 Fő utca) used to be scene of Dorottya Balls signalling the start of festivities during the the carnival season.

The beautiful classical building of the former County Hall (10 Fő utca) houses the Rippl-Rónai Museum detailing the history, ethnography and wildlife of the area. The only cinema museum in Hungary is also housed here. Major works of the best-known Hungarian Art Nouveau painter József Rippl-Rónai are on display at a memorial museum (Róma-hegy), named after him, which used to be his home. The Vaszary memorial House (9 Zárda utca) holds the works of János Vaszary, another great son of the town. The Vaszary Gallery (12 Fő utca) displays the works of contemporary artists on a continuous basis.

Riding schools and major equestrian events are a magnet for lovers of equestrian sports.

Though in ruins, the Kaposszentjakab Benedictine abbey, founded in 1601, is worth the 4-km walk for the panorama view and the events associated with the St. James Summer Nights festivities.

Szenna (C5)

The museum village of Szenna, built in the very heart of this living village (2 Rákóczi utca), was awarded the Europa Nostra Prize. It is an outdoor collection of houses, displaying the characteristics of 19th-century architecture, first taken apart in numbered pieces at the place of their construction and then reconstructed in the museum. The museum looks as if it were a real village: next to wooden-porched houses with smokey kitchens are the timbered buildings of the cooper's, the distillery, the press house and stables.

The painted panelled ceiling of the Calvinist Church, built in 1787, is adorned with 117 unique flower patterns, with no two alike among them. A multitude of protected plants and animals inhabit the richly wooded Zselic Nature Reserve, an ideal place for hiking.



Szenna, church interior



Szenna, open-air village museum



Lake Balaton



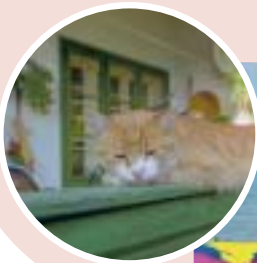
Sailing on Lake Balaton

The 'Hungarian Sea' is how the 77-km long lake with silky green-yellow water in the middle of Pannonia is best-known. Lake Balaton is one of Hungary's most precious natural assets and her most frequented resort. With a water surface of 600 km², it is the largest lake in Central Europe. Its shoreline is 195 km, its average depth is 3 m; at its deepest, at the 'well' of Tihany, it is 12.4 m, at its widest, it is 14 km. The summer water temperature of 20-26 °C is warmer than the air in the morning and in the evening. The water and the silky mud of the lake are recommended for nervous complaints, anemia and nervous fatigue. The southern shores are ideal for small children because of the shallow water. Velvety sands cover the beach from Balatonaliga through Balatonszentgyörgy. The beach is an uninterrupted line of large and small resorts with bustling life, a paradise for worshippers of sun and water.

Between Balatonakaratya and Keszthely, there are approximately 25 lakeside resorts surrounded by hills on the northern lake shore. The innumerable sights in the villages and towns away from the lake offer memorable outings on cloudy days.

Siófok (C3) is the largest town on the southern side of the lake, stretching along the its shore for a length of 17 km. Its port serves every boat route on the lake. Cruise boats also start from here. The composer of the internationally renowned operettas, including Csárdáskirálynő, Imre Kálmán (1882-1953), is a famous son of this city. His piano and personal belongings are on display in the museum dedicated to his name (5 Kálmán I. Sétány). A huge collection of 3,000 different types of minerals from all over the Carpathian Basin is exhibited in the Museum of Minerals (10 Kálmán I. Sétány). A true curiosity at Siófok is the country's first Museum of Egg Decoration (4 Szűcs utca).





Balatonboglár, beach



Siófok, statue of Imre Kálmán

Szántód (C4)

The Szántód ferry has been in operation for centuries for those heading for the northern shores, she and her port were built in 1802. The protected group of manor buildings, erected by Benedictine monks between 1716 and 1741, has been transformed into a centre of tourism and culture. Visitors to the manor house can admire many fine paintings and sculptures; the wine cellars contain an exhibition on the history of wine-growing, the granary holds a folk art exhibition and the servants' quarter offers a local history exhibition. At the inn visitors are served excellent food and fine drinks. In the corrals, herds of long-coated sheep and cattle graze at leisure. The aquarium offers a vicarious experience of the aquatic world of Lake Balaton.

Balatonboglár (C4) is the finish line for the popular cross-Balaton swimming competitions, which start on the opposite side at Révfülöp (end of July). The local history collection at Fischl House (12-14 Erzsébet utca), the country's first church of reinforced concrete, built in 1932, the rotund lookout tower on Fort Hill and the arts exhibitions and open-air performances on Kápolna Hill are all worth visiting.

Balatonszentgyörgy's (B4) highlight is the star-shaped early 19th-century Romantic style Csillagvár (Irtásidűlő), the former hunting lodge of the Festetics family. You can see here an exhibition presenting the way of life of outpost warriors in the 17th century. The Regional House (68 Csillagvár utca) represents the characteristic architectural style of the area.

Keszthely (B-C4)

The largest and oldest settlement on the lake was an important hub of commerce in Roman times. The remains of the castrum in the 2nd-4th-century town of Valcum can be seen in *Fenékpuszta*. Building No 22 along the bustling Kossuth utca is Pető House, the birthplace of composer Károly Goldmark. The street leads to Fő tér, where a 14th-century Franciscan parish church stands. The Gothic frescoes inside and its rosette windows are all original. The Festetics Mansion (1 Kastély utca) is the third largest chateau in the country with 101 rooms, an ornate wrought iron gate, the surviving chapel and the Helikon Library with 86,000 volumes including many rarities. In the museum inside the chateau, ornate firearms and the trophy collection of the Duke of Windischgrätz are displayed. Weekly concerts are organised in the music hall of mirrors and the English park of the chateau is a natural protection area. It was the former owner of the chateau, György Festetics, who founded Europe's first farming school, the Georgikon (20 Georgikon utca), providing university level education, in 1797. The history of the school, 19th-century viticulture and grain-farming in the Balaton region can be traced at the Georgikon Manor Museum (67 Bercsényi Miklós utca). All you may wish to know about Lake Balaton, including its formation, flora and fauna, the history of bathing culture and waterborne traffic and archaeological and ethnographic memorabilia of 7,000 years, can be seen at the Balaton Museum (2 Múzeum utca). The marzipan model of the Festetics Mansion is among the exhibits at the Marzipan Confectionery Museum (11 Katona J. utca). The Puppet Museum (11 Kossuth utca) offers a rich array of cute puppets and dolls and a miniature replica, made from snail shells, of the Parliament in Budapest. The museum also houses a waxworks displaying notable personalities of Hungarian history. The island baths, built in 1892, with a timber structure protruding deep into the lake, is an interesting sight. How come camels, buffaloes and zebras roam along Lake Balaton? Hardly indigenous to the region, they are resident of the Safari Park and Africa Museum (11



Keszthely, Festetics Mansion



Lake Balaton



Kültelek) established by the renowned Hungarian hunter in Africa, Endre von Nagy at *Balatonederics*. A rich collection of artefacts including trophies and African ethnographic objects is on display at the museum.

Szigliget (C4)

The village has a unique atmosphere with its houses creeping up the hillside and its green groves. The thatched cottages of the old village are protected examples of traditional folk architecture. There is a stunning panorama from the ruins of the 13th-century Szigliget Fortress, destroyed in 1702, on the 242-m Castle Hill. The Esterházy Palace (174 Kossuth utca) is now a sabbatical house for writers. There are more than 150 types of pine trees in its well-kept park.

Badacsony Hill (B-C4)

The hill (437 m) is an extinct casket-shaped volcano. Its slopes are covered with some very strange geological formations, fossilised lava columns called 'basalt organs' as well as vineyards which produce the excellent wine of the Pauline monks called 'Grey Friar' (Szürkebarát). Of the two hundred-year-old press houses, the two finest are the House of Róza Szegedy (Kisfaludy út), housing the Literary Museum with memorabilia of literature and viniculture, and the Baroque Kisfaludy House (Kisfaludy utca), the most popular wine cellar and restaurant along the shore. Its terrace also offers an excellent panorama. So does the 14-m Kisfaludy lookout tower at the highest point of the hill and the Ranolder Cross on the south-western side. The *Badacsonytomaj* house of the painter of the Lake Balaton, József Egry (1883-1951) now holds a museum dedicated to him (12 Egry József sétány). In Badacsonytomaj, the Church of St. Imre, the first basalt church in Europe, was built in 1932. The highlights of the Badacsony Nature Reserve, with superb panoramas, are the volcanic hills called 'Witness Hills', including Gulács (393 m), Csobánc (376 m), St. George Hill (415 m). The reason they are called 'witnesses' is that they bear witness to the once much higher water level of the extinct Pannonian Sea. Visitors following the geobotanical trail will soon recognise the immense heritage of the place. The Folly Arboretum (5 Arboretum utca) in *Badacsonyörs* displays 400 types of evergreens.

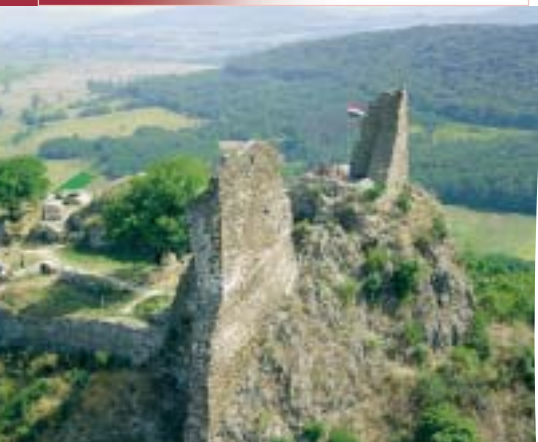
Extinct volcanoes surround the villages, inhabited since time began, in the protected Káli Basin. The mineral water source on the outskirts of *Kékkút*, producing the famous bottled water, Theodora, was known to the Romans. Ruins of medieval palaces and churches and unique geological formations further enhance the appeal of this region. Clusters of basalt columns and small crater lakes like Lake Kornyi of Hegyestű Hill, the basalt columns of the Fekete-hegy ('Black Hill') and, unique to this region, the wind-eroded stones of bizarre shape at *Szentbékakál*, *Kövágóörs* and *Salföld* are true curiosities. On the nature reserve farm of Salföld grey cattle, long-coated sheep and buffaloes, once indigenous to this area, have received a new lease of life in their protected habitat.

In the cemetery of *Balatonudvari* there are approximately 50 graves with heart-shaped tombstones from the years 1808-1840.

In *Örvényes* the water-mill (1 Szent Imre utca), (still in working condition), which stands next to the over 200-year-old bridge on the Pécsely stream, milled wheat as early as 1211. It still uses the ancient tools of the millers.

Tihany (C3)

The twin-towered church of the Tihany peninsula is visible from afar. Protruding deep into the lake, the 5-km long and 3.5-km wide peninsula, inhabited for almost a thousand years, is of volcanic origin, and has a profusion of rare plants and animals. One of the most cherished assets of Hungarian architecture, the crypt of King András I, founded in 1055, survived the turbulent past, and still stands in its original form. So did the charter of the abbey, the first written record of the Hungarian language. The present church was built over the crypt in the 18th century in the Baroque style, and has many precious wood carvings. The Museum of the Benedictine Abbey (1 I. András tér) houses an exhibition on the history of the church, a memorial room dedicated to King Károly IV (1916-18), the last Hungarian king and a lapidary collection of Roman and medieval stonework. There are frequent organ concerts in



Badacsony, the house of Róza Szegedy

Szigetvár



Tihany Abbey

the church in summertime. The 18th-century houses of the Open-air Ethnographic Museum (12 Pisky Walk), the traditional rural houses of Ófalu and the Potter's House (12 Pisky Walk) evoke the life of fishermen. The Puppet Museum (4 Visszhang utca) is a romantic world of porcelain dolls and doll's houses from 1850-1920. The Tihany Nature Reserve, established in 1952 and the first in the country, can be explored by taking the Lajos Lóczy pathway. Sights include wind-torn basalt rocks, a hermit's niche carved from volcanic stone, the monk's dwellings where Basilite monk settlers lived in the 11th century and the almond trees and lavender fields. From the natural lookouts of the peninsula - the Kiserdő top and the 'Golden House', the most beautiful view can be had looking over the hundreds of geyser cones onto the Inner Lake, so loved by anglers, and the Outer Lake where tens of thousands of birds nest. A ferry from one of the prettiest ports on Lake Balaton heads for *Szántód*, one mile from here, on the southern shore.

Balatonfüred (C3)

The grand Balaton resort is the first medicinal and recreational resort of Hungary. This is the place where the first Balaton steamship started. The first yachtsmen's association was set up here. The villas of 19th-century celebrities were built here, such as the villa (now a memorial museum) (1 Honvéd utca) of the great romantic novelist, Mór Jókai (1825-1904). In the cardiology department of the local hospital patients with heart conditions have been treated here for three hundred years with the help of the mineral water sources. This water is beneficial to diabetes and digestive malfunctions, and can be sampled in the Kossuth Lajos Drinking House (Gyógy tér). The memorial plaques of Balaton's Pantheon are in the corridor of the Árkád Hotel (Gyógy tér). The annual Anna Ball, with the crowning of the Queen of the Ball, has been organized in the town theatre for 170 years, on the last Saturday of July. The Rabindranath Tagore Promenade on the lakeshore is lined with the statues, memorial plaques and trees commemorating Hungarian and foreign celebrities. Start-of-the-sailing parties are held each May in the Rose Garden. The aragonite pea-stones on the layered walls of the 120-m long Lóczy Cave (at the end of Öreg-hegyi út) offer a special sight. Koloska Valley and the Jókai look-out tower are excellent hiking destinations.

Felsőörs may rightly be proud of its Provost's Church, built in the 13th century. Its 5-register organ made in 1745 is played in the popular summer organ concerts. There is a geological study path at Forrás Hill, giving us an insight into the tertiary period of the Earth's history.

Highlights in *Balatonalmádi*, a bathing place since 1877 include its buildings made of Permi sandstone and the Roman Catholic church with its Chapel of the Holy Right, (Óvári Ferenc utca). The chapel, ornate with gold mosaic from Venice, used to stand in the Royal Castle in Buda, where the right hand of St. Stephen, a relic respected by the nation, was kept. On the 4-mile path called 'Red Sandstone', signposts indicate the interesting sights of the Balaton Highlands National Park. The symbol of *Vörösbény* is its 13th-century medieval fortress church.

Hévíz (B4)

Lying 6 km away from Keszthely and the northern shore of the lake, the 36-m deep Hévíz Lake, with a surface area of 47,500 m², is the second largest hot-water lake in the world. 420 litres of 36 °C mildly radioactive water, rich in sulphur, gases and minerals, and with its own special circulation, gush out every second. Open-air bathing is a pleasant experience in this valley with its pleasant micro-climate, even in winter. The mud at the bottom of the lake has special properties: it is highly recommended for locomotor disorders, rheumatism, inflammations and arthritic complaints. Covered with Indian water-lilies, the lake, the water of which tastes good and is suitable also for drinking as a water therapy, has been used for the purposes of curative bathing since 1795. In addition to the existing open-air lake, an indoor pool one was built in 1968 (1 Dr. Schulhof Vilmos sétány).

Tapolca (C3)

14 cone-shaped basalt hills, covered with vineyards, encircle the small town. Its features a geological rarity in the form of the 4-km Tavas Cave (3 Kisfaludy utca) in which you can go boating. In the heart of the town the 200-year-old watermill on the shore of the



Lake Hévíz



Tapolca



Balatonfüred, landing stage



Nagyvázsony



Vineyard in Balaton Highlands



picturesque Malom [Mill] Lake is now a hotel. One of the oldest elementary school buildings in Central Europe contains the town's library and museum (8 Templomdomb), housing an exhibition on the history of education.

Nagyvázsony (C3)

A superb panorama opens onto the neighbouring countryside from the 29-m high tower of the castle of Pál Kinizsi (1446-1494), who became a commander of the castle and the favourite general of King Matthias Corvinus. The Fortress Museum (9 Vár utca) details the history of the castle and excavation works. Kinizsi's sarcophagus can be seen in the chapel of the castle. The interior of St. Stephen's Church (148 Rákóczi utca) is a relic of the 15th century. The 18th-century Zichy Palace is a hotel today (12 Kossuth utca). The Post Office Museum (3 Temető utca) houses an exhibition of the history of postal services and telecommunication. The thatched Schumacher House (21 Bercsényi Miklós u.) under a gabled roof evokes the home of a weaver of old times, while several tools from a coppersmith's shop are on display in the stable.

Balaton Minor (Kis-Balaton B4)

This is a marshland with tens of thousands of birds nesting in the reeds. Approximately 150 of the 370 bird species of Hungary hatch here. Most are herons, cormorants and bee-eaters. The most endangered rarity is the noble snow-white tufted heron. The Kányavári-sziget (2 km from Balatonmagyaród to the north) and Pap-sziget lookout towers (from the direction of the village of Vörs along the road leading to the keeper's lodge) are ideal places for bird-watching. These highly protected areas can only be visited with prior permission and a guide. In *Kápolnapuszta* nearby, the only buffalo reservation in the country is worth visiting.

Zalakaros (B4)

Every minute 830 litres of 96 °C thermal water surges up from a depth of 2,300 m, feeding this spa (4 Thermál utca), where patients undergo treatment for rheumatism, locomotor disorders, neuralgia or gynaecological complaints. The medicinal centre of the Zalakaros spa popular with its tubs and underwater traction bath. The thermal baths with 21 pools in a 20-hectare park, theme pools and children's pools allows people of all ages to have fun.

Buzsák (C4)

The folk art of this village is famous all over Europe for its local embroidery, applied also to altar cloths and vestments. The Buzsák Regional House in a 200-year old cottage with a portico (8 Fő utca) details the history of the village and local farming. There is a folk exhibition in the village house. Traditional costumes are worn during the dedication festival in August. The thermal baths in nearby *Csisztapuszta* can be reached by the narrow-gauge railway leaving from *Balatonfenyves*.



Balaton Minor



Pike-perch from Lake Balaton

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Concert at Tihany



Nógrád Castle





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